



Share how you will commemorate 9/11

The American Legion | September 6, 2023

Monday marks the 22nd anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. It's a time in history that The American Legion will never forget.

For over two decades, American Legion posts have conducted ceremonies on 9/11 to ensure that their communities don't forget the lives lost that day or those lost while fighting the global war on terrorism prompted by the attack. The American Legion wants to hear how posts are remembering the 22nd anniversary of Sept. 11. Please email sbrooks@legion.org with details about your event, and then share your stories and photos on [Legiontown](https://legiontown.com).



A few events already scheduled:

- In New Jersey, Longport's annual 9/11 ceremony will be held 9 a.m. at Thomas B. Reed Park at the foot of the Longport bridge. Firefighters, police, and members of American Legion Post 469 will place wreaths in memory of those lost in the 9/11 attacks, and those fighting the war on terror for many years after those attacks.

- In Connecticut on Sept. 10, American Legion Post 48 will dedicate its memorial stone and plaque, Tribute to Freedom Monument, at the town marina at 11 a.m. The organization placed the monument last year to honor the personnel and everyday people who lost their lives on 9/11. The Freedom Monument pays tribute to the military, first responders, government employees, and ordinary citizens who, on 9/11 and thereafter, responded to the war on terror to ensure the preservation of our freedoms.

- In Nebraska, A "Remember 9/11 Patriot's Walk" will take place Sept. 10, at 5 p.m. in Fuller Park, Albion. Sponsoring organizations are American Legion Post 162 and its entire American Legion Family, and VFW Post 736, their auxiliaries, Sons of The American Legion, and the American Legion Riders. Everyone is encouraged to attend and honor the lives lost on 9/11.

In 2021, The American Legion Tango Alpha Lima podcast did a special series of 20 memorable, inspiring, and captivating stories related to the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. [Listen to those stories here.](#)

Round-Up

Donald "JR" Hall (MD) *National Commander*
Robert L. Bristo (MN) *Central National Vice-Commander*
John R. Cook (NH) *Northeast National Vice-Commander*
Terry A. Harris (KS) *Midwest National Vice-Commander*
Linwood A. Moore (VA) *Southeast National Vice-Commander*
James R. Fischer (CA) *Western National Vice-Commander*

Christopher Carlton (IN)
Immediate Past National Commander

Joseph Navarrete (NM)
Leading Candidate for National Commander

William Clancy III (NY)
Trailing Candidate for National Commander

Round-Up is a publication designed to disseminate information related to Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Family, and is published weekly and distributed each Sunday.

Round-Up is a collection of information procured from various resources to stay better informed on happenings within The American Legion Family, and of other related topics of interest, and makes no claims or guarantees about the accuracy or currency of the contents of this publication, and expressly disclaims liability for errors and omissions.

SUBMITTING ARTICLES: All submissions are to be made electronically to jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com. If you need assistance, please send an email to same.

All information must be submitted by noon each Friday.

PNVC [Jeff Vrabel, Sr.](#), Editor
[Rusty Myers](#), Contributor
[Lou Michaels](#), Contributor



Donald "JR" Hall, Jr.
National Commander

Representing More Than Me

From the Editor

As you will notice, our newsletter has become a magazine, with over forty pages this week. It's great to see *Round-Up* grow, we still are not receiving the volume of local stories from our squadrons and detachments.

In order to continue to spread our message, we need your help. Please send in pictures (with descriptions), articles, coming events, etc. Let other members of the American Legion Family know what you are doing. Your information may be something that can be tried somewhere else. People may want to attend your events, so include the full address.

This will also be a great recruiting tool for our new administrative year. Let's make sure to tell our story!

Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible. Renew Today!

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com | [Team Vrabel](#)

click a button for more information



**YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS**

Remembering the Greatest Generation

Sailor returns home after 80 years

[Essex Daily News](#) | September 4, 2023



Brianne Aumack

Ordnanceman First Class Anthony Di Petta returns home to Nutley nearly 80 years after he left to fight in World War II.

A Nutley sailor returned home this summer, nearly 80 years after he died in the service of his country.

People gathered at the World War II Memorial to pay their respects to the fallen Nutley resident, Ordnanceman First Class Anthony Di Petta, whose remains were recovered decades after he was killed in a World War II air strike.

Following a private service on July 11, supporters accompanied Di Petta's funeral procession, honoring the Di Petta family and the memory of the fallen sailor who sacrificed his life.

"We welcomed home one of our Nutley sons who has been gone for over 79 years," said Mayor Joseph Scarpelli. "The community was there to console his family and we thank Anthony Di Petta for his service and for making the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms."

"The whole town came together to welcome a hero home and send him to his final resting place, the correct way," said Commissioner John V. Kelly, III. "I think of the quote from George S. Patton: 'It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived.' I think that is

true here. We are all honored that he called Nutley home and that he laid down his life for friends, family, and his country. We are honored he was a part of Nutley. Even though it's almost 80 years later, we hope that his return home can bring some comfort to his family."

On Sept. 10, 1944, 24-year-old Di Petta, along with two other crew members, boarded their Avenger torpedo/bomber, taking off from the USS Enterprise aircraft carrier to conduct air strikes against enemy targets.

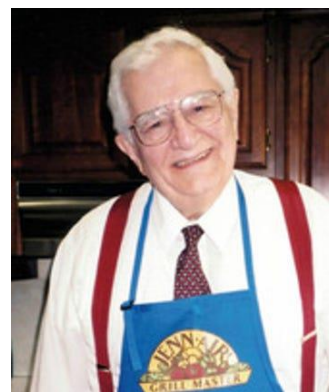
Their aircraft was struck by enemy fire and crashed in the waters near Malakal Island, located in the Pacific Ocean about 800 miles southwest of Guam. Recovery efforts were halted in the summer of 1947, and on July 16, 1949, Di Petta and crew were declared non-recoverable.

The crash site was located in 2015 after several years of Project Recover search missions. In partnership with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), Project Recover recovered MIAs from the Avenger during their first MIA Recovery Mission in 2021. The location was about 200 meters from the shore of Malakal Island.

Scientists from DPAA used dental analysis to identify Di Petta's remains, while scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil.

William R. Thomas



William R. Thomas, age 98, passed away on September 6, 2023. Co-founder and Co-owner of the former Kitchen Kraft, Inc., Naval veteran of World War II. 1942 graduate of Rosary High School. Attended the University of North Carolina and Ohio State University. Former member,

Board of Directors of Cedar Enterprises, former Board member of the Building Industry Association. Member of the Knights of Columbus. Member of St. Pius X Church. Preceded in death by son, John Paul; parents, Mary, and John Thomas; sister, Betty J.

Thomas and brother, Robert E. Thomas; cousin, Joseph D. Karam. Survived by wife of 62 years, Dolores C. (McShane) Thomas; children, Amy Rees (Jamie), William R. Thomas, Jr. (Julie), Elizabeth Koch (Rod), and Michael J. Thomas (Tracy); grandchildren, Jack, Abigail and Sam Rees, Gabrielle and Jacob Koch, and Ryan and Katherine Thomas; and many nieces and nephews.

Mass at 10:30 AM at St. Pius X Catholic Church, Reynoldsburg, Tuesday, Sept. 12. Private Family Burial at St. Joseph Cemetery, Lockbourne.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Nationwide Children's Hospital, St. Pius X Catholic School, or Bishop Hartley High School. Online condolences available at www.pfeifer-woodyard.com.

Posted online on September 9, 2023. Published in Columbus Dispatch.

Robert L. Bristo

Central National Vice-Commander

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING TBA

John R. Cook

Northeast National Vice-Commander

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING TBA

James R. Fischer

Western National Vice-Commander

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING TBA

Terry A. Harris

Midwest National Vice-Commander

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING TBA



Linwood A. Moore

Southeast National Vice-Commander

First Wednesday of the Month Quarterly
8:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 945 1723 1230 | 058 543
877 853 5257

Sep 6, 2023 | Dec 6, 2023
Mar 6, 2024 | Jun 5, 2024

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system. Monthly: <https://legion.zoom.us/join/legion.zoom.us/meeting/tJAodu6qrTooGdQ-FSvsze5YDk3yRUz8MXWN/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCsqzot-GNeUshqHRowlGYj4KOrztn5Bjads0TnWFT-NJZ1bPEukRK4BKCoD9>

BE THE ONE

If you're a veteran in crisis or concerned about one, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive 24/7 confidential support. Dial 988 then Press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat or text 838255.

Montana Post 14 answers call to Be the One

The American Legion | September 8, 2023

American Legion Post 14 in Bozeman, Mont., is answering the call to [Be the One](#). The post worked with Montana State University (MSU) Veteran Support Center, MSU School of Art and the Montana 988 Project to promote suicide prevention-themed challenge coins that aim to increase awareness of suicide and resources available to help those in crisis.

More than 30 challenge coins were created by MSU graphic design students that feature [Montana 988](#) (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number) on one side then 988+1 (Veterans Crisis Line) on the other side. As a top five state in the U.S. for suicides per capita, the Montana 988 Project was created to provide suicide awareness and empowers people to ask for help. Each MSU graphic design student was given three challenge coins – one to keep and two for an MSU veteran student to have and give to veterans

in need. The graphic design students had input from veterans on the design of their respective challenge coin, including help from Post 14 Public Relations Officer Rick Gale.



“I worked with a student by the name of Erica Oborsky on a design that represents the beauty of Montana while providing resources to both veterans and civilians. The sky may be big, but you’re not alone,” Gale said, adding that it was great to sit down with the students and share his military and career background, a conversation that led to the creation of the coin pictured above. Gale was a crisis hostage negotiator for Irvine (Calif.) Police Department and for the National Park Service. He too a park ranger at Yellowstone National Park for many summers, and Oborsky has a special connection to Yellowstone as well, so that’s why there is a spruce tree behind the State of Montana on the coin.

“How can you be a part of (Be the One) in your own way with the messaging and this really fit well,” Gale said. “With that kind of a background as far as intervention and talking to people on the phone, it was a fit looking at Be the One campaign and the suicide prevention messaging for veterans.”

Gale and Post 14 member Bethany West promoted several of the challenge coins and American Legion Be the One suicide prevention materials on June 8 during the premiere of “Mending the Line” at the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture in Bozeman. The film features a Marine veteran wounded in Afghanistan who meets a Vietnam veteran at a VA facility in Montana who teaches him how to fly fish as a support mechanism for his emotional and physical trauma from war.

“We thought what a great place to highlight what The American Legion is doing as far as the messaging (to end veteran suicide) and to display the challenge coins,” Gale said. “We were thanked again and again

for promoting Montana 988 plus 1. We were especially moved when a couple thanked us and shared that their son, who was a veteran, had recently committed suicide, and that was a moment in time that we will never forget.”

Besides the film premiere, Gale has been traveling with the coin display to showcase at various meetings and organizations that support mental health. “It’s been exciting to share this display with the community” and veterans on campus as the coins are on display in the MSU Veteran Support Center,” he said. “So as a veteran comes in, you know, they’re looking at these coins and you know what? This is information that they can share with veterans that they may know who are in crisis on campus... veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan.

“My son is an Iraq veteran, and he definitely struggled with PTS and was having some pretty challenging moments. We’ve talked, and I encouraged him to call the Veterans Crisis Line to get some help, get some support. We’ve talked about getting help when you need it and being a part of a group, whether it’s The American Legion to connect with other veterans and to make sure that he takes care of himself and sometimes that means talking to somebody who is available. And that’s been the Veterans Crisis Line at 988 plus one.” Gale said the challenge coins have been a collaborative effort with several veteran groups and advocates that was initially spearheaded by Todd Bucher, interim director of Veteran Services at MSU and Bruce Barnhart, MSU School of Art instructor, who looked at the statistics with suicides, especially veterans, and wanted to Be the One to make a difference.

“I look at this collaboration, this networking, this partnership with different veteran groups here in Southwest Montana and across Montana as far as getting the messaging out to both veterans and their families as best as we can,” Gale said. “There’s this incredible, marvelous, wonderful collaboration taking place as far suicide prevention. I know American Legion Post 14 members are so excited that this is happening, that we can get this word out and you know, maybe other posts can look at what they can do as far as challenge coins and along with the Be the One campaign.”

National Commissions and Committees

Chairmen wishing to have reports published should email them to jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com to be included. All meeting information subject to change.

100th Anniversary Committee

Part of CENTCOM

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING TBA

Advisory Committee

Joe Mayne (MN), Chairman
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING TBA

Americanism Commission

Chris Casey (NE), Chairman
Fourth Thursday of Bi-monthly
7:30 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 956 9846 2868 | 840 830
(877) 853-5257

Legion awards FOX Sports for 100 percent Americanism

[Cameran Richardson](#) | August 30, 2023

Before being introduced to the 100 percent Americanism Award recipient, American Legion national convention attendees watched a commercial – [“Ragged Old Flag” performed by Johnny Cash](#). It features individuals respecting the American flag to include the youngest living Medal of Honor recipient, Kyle Carpenter; and Christie Ennis, a helicopter door gunner and mechanic who lost her leg in Afghanistan in a helicopter crash.

The commercial was played as part of FOX Sports Super Bowl LVII broadcast this year where a record 115.2 million people watched.

“As we all know, commercial advertising during the Super Bowl is sold for many millions of dollars for even the briefest spots. But FOX Sports decided that this patriotic message was worth transmitting to the world, sacrificing time that could be used to pitch commercial products,” said American Legion National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola. “Normally, we present our 100 percent Americanism Award at the Americanism Commission meeting.

This year, we felt that our award recipient deserved to be acknowledged here on the big stage.”



FOX Sports CEO and Executive Producer Eric Shanks accepts the 2023 American Legion 100 Percent Americanism Award during Day 2 of The American Legion 104th National Convention at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, N.C., on Wednesday, August 30.

Hilary Ott/The American Legion

The American Legion 100 Percent Americanism Award was presented to FOX Sports on Aug. 30, and CEO and Executive Producer Eric Shanks accepted it on stage at the Charlotte Convention Center.

“This is quite an honor for all of us at FOX Sports,” Shanks said. “So, we want to say thank you, but above all we want to say thank you for your service to this country. It’s something that we strive to do with every broadcast that we do which is to say thank you, whether it’s showing the national anthem or creating pieces like (“Ragged Old Flag”). This honor really reflects our commitment to the servicemen and women and the veterans that have served.”

The idea of showing patriotism before a Super Bowl kickoff started in 1997, the very first Super Bowl for FOX Sports. The network was run by David Hill then and from 1997-2016 a piece of the Declaration of Independence was read. After that, FOX Sports was looking to change its patriotic kickoff commercial. That’s when Shanks heard the song “Ragged Old Flag.”

On his drive home in Los Angeles, he was listening to his favorite radio host and good friend, Tim Conway Jr. “He doesn’t usually play music, but something struck him, and he played this song (by Johnny Cash) that I had never heard before,” Shanks said. “As soon as he played that song I said, ‘Buddy, you just played a song that a hundred million people are going to get to see before the Super Bowl in Houston in 2017.’

“It is now our tradition before kickoff.”

This month, FOX Sports is celebrating 30 years of broadcasting the NFL.

“Our most proud day, every year, is when we take our NFL pregame show on the road to celebrate Veterans Day,” Shanks said. They have been to Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar; the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis; Marine Corps Base in San Diego; U.S. Military Academy West Point; Fort Benning, Ga.; Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan; Joint Base Pearl Harbor; and where it all started in 2000 on the *USS Harry Truman*.

“This is our longest standing tradition at FOX Sports, and we’re not going to stop anytime soon,” Shanks said. “It’s the thing that makes our country so strong. “On behalf of FOX Sports, we are extremely honored that you like the piece and we hope that you continue to enjoy our work in honoring our servicemen and women and the veterans who sacrifice to keep us safe and free.”

Century Committee

Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH), Chairman
Second Thursday of Each Month
7:00 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 974 1352 0429 | 473 385
(877) 853-5257

Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Mark Nave (PA), Chairman
Third Wednesday of Each Month
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 989 9129 8443 | 967 563
(877) 853-5257

Children & Youth Committee

Joseph Lohman (MD), Chairman
Second Wednesday of Each Month
7:30 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 934 1509 0014 | 403 800
(877) 853-5257

Finance Commission

William G. Hill (MD), Chairman
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 957 1342 7326 | 44846
(877) 853-5257

Internal Affairs Commission

William Clancy III (NY), Chairman
First Thursday of Each Month
6:00 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 917 1243 8217 | 914 458
(877) 853-5257

Legislative Commission

Blair Miles (AL), Chairman
Third Thursday of ODD Months
7:30 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 991 2070 0860 | 092 260
(877) 853-5257

Member Training & Development Committee

Michael Cotton (DE), Chairman
First Monday of Each Month
8:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 918 2414 1981 | 777 490
(877) 853-5258

Membership Committee

Daryl VerStreate Jr. (NY), Chairman
Third Tuesday of Each Month
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time
(605) 472-5756 | 771 7294

The current SAL membership report can be accessed on the national website at www.legion.org/membership/standings.

SAL Online Renewal - members can login and renew direct via www.myLegion.org or quick renew by clicking here [SAL Online Renewal](#).

SAL New Member Kit is now online and ready for purchase. [New Member Kit \(SAL\) - American Legion Flag & Emblem](#).

Additional membership information appears later in this edition.

[How to use the Online Transmittal Process](#)



**RENEW
ONLINE
TODAY**

National Convention Committee

Christopher Byrd (NC), Chairman

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 961 5391 3982 | 690 337
(877) 853-5257

National Executive Committee Liaison Committee

Jim Stewart (NV), Chairman
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING TBA

National Vice-Commander Selection Committee

James Hartman (MD), Co-Chairman
David Stephens (IN), Co-Chairman
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING TBA

Paid Up For Life (PUFL) Adhoc Committee

Kevin Winkleman (TX), Chairman
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING TBA

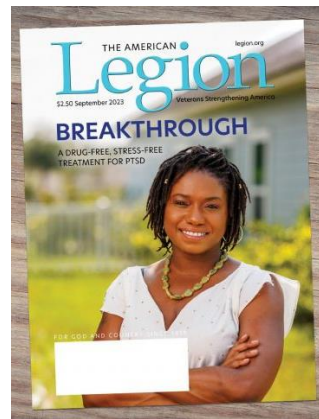
Public & Media Communications Committee

Kevin Chaplin (VA), Chairman
Fourth Tuesday of Each Month
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 963 1528 2340 | 075 079
(877) 853-5257

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Drug-free PTSD treatment, Operation Afghan Open Road and more in September issue

The American Legion | September 5, 2023



through MyLegion.org.

Don't miss the September issue of *The American Legion Magazine*, with features on an innovative drug-free PTSD therapy, a pilot program that helps Afghan refugees obtain CDL licenses, the group of wives who took up the fight for POWs and the missing during the Vietnam War, and more. The clickable digi-mag is available

- In "Mind Shift," Henry Howard talks to clinical scientist Frank Bourke, whose innovative Reconciliation of Traumatic Memories (RTM) therapy has a 90% success rate for veterans, first responders and others grappling with traumatic

experiences. “The RTM Protocol, at this point, is the most cost-effective treatment for PTSD in the world,” he says. “That is being borne out by the scientific research.”

- Brothers Basharmal Paiwand and Mohammad Bawar are two of an estimated 500 Afghans who Air Force Maj. Jared Lafaivre helped get into the airport after the fall of Kabul. “There were a million things that had to go right for every one of the rescues,” says Lafaivre, who received the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement for his actions during the U.S. withdrawal.
- With the help of an American Legion-backed pilot program called Operation Afghan Open Road, Afghan allies are training to become truck drivers with the prospect of higher pay and health-care benefits than their current jobs. “My family depends on me for support,” says Nazeer Akbari, who worked as an interpreter with the U.S. Army at NATO’s headquarters in Afghanistan. “That’s why I chose truck-driving training, so I can find a job with better pay. So my children can have a better life here.”
- Until the Vietnam War, missing U.S. military personnel were left missing. Then a group of wives, sisters and mothers made their fate, and the fate of prisoners of war, a national priority. “The job will never be finished,” writes Taylor Baldwin Kiland, co-author of [“Unwavering: The Wives Who Fought to Ensure No Man is Left Behind.”](#) “Yet the endeavor is noble, uniquely and quintessentially American, and the return of long-lost service-members always celebrated.”
- In his final Commander’s Message, National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola explains The American Legion’s move to join Face the Fight, a USAA-led coalition of corporations, foundations, nonprofits, and veterans-focused organizations united in their goal of reducing the veteran suicide rate. “I am excited about this opportunity and believe it will enhance the Legion’s Be the One initiative,” Troiola says. “Doing it alone is not a healthy way to deal with a crisis ... It’s time we follow our own advice.”

Members can click [here](#) to access the digital magazine.

To join The American Legion and enjoy monthly digital issues of *The American Legion Magazine*, visit [legion.org/join](#).

Subcommittee on National Appointments

Donald Allisot, Jr. (ME), Chairman
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING TBA

Subcommittee on Resolutions

Ned Fox (CA), Chairman
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING TBA

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Bruno Williamson (IL), Chairman
Fourth Monday of Each Month
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 941 4100 3972 | 378 079
(646) 931-3860

Navy veteran has car and mobility scooter stolen in Youngstown

Leslie Huff | September 5, 2023



For months now, 21 News has been reporting on a surge of Kia and Hyundai thefts around the country and in the Valley. Now it's hitting hard for one Youngstown man who had his Kia stolen with his mobility scooter inside

Early Monday morning on Sept 4. Darrell Larocque discovered his 2022 black Kia Sportage missing from his driveway on Champlain Avenue in Youngstown. To make matters worse, he said his mobility scooter, which he relies on to get around, was stored in the back of the car and now both are gone.

"It's incredibly frustrating that somebody would just come along and be callus enough to steal my vehicle knowing I am a disabled veteran," Larocque told 21 News reporter Leslie Huff.

Larocque was in the navy for 20 years. He said he can stand for only short periods of time because of back and respiratory issues. Without the scooter, he has to reschedule his medical appointments while waiting for a rental car.

"Anytime I need to go out [and it's] something that requires a lot of walking, having that mobility scooter is a life saver," Larocque said.

The veteran told police that he had locked his car door at 11:30 pm after returning home from the Canfield Fair on Sunday. In the police report officer said they did not find any broken glass in his driveway.

Larocque said he has been calling pawn shops around the Valley in hopes of finding the scooter. He now has a [GoFundMe](#) page to help replace what was stolen from him.

Former DPAA deputy director honored with Patriot Award

[Steven B. Brooks](#) | August 30, 2023



2023 American Legion Patriot Award recipient, retired deputy director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Johnnie Webb speaks during Day 2 of The American Legion 104th National Convention at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, N.C., on Wednesday, August 30.

Jeric Wilhelmsen/The American Legion

In 2018, North Korea allowed the return of dozens of boxes of remains of U.S. servicemembers who fought in the Korean War.

One of the persons responsible at the time for conducting the U.S. effort to bring home the remains of all missing U.S. servicemembers still remembers how that felt. And he shared that feeling Aug. 30 during The American Legion National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., where he was honored with the organization's Patriot Award.

Johnnie Webb, who began his career at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in 1994 and retired from the same agency in December 2022 as its Deputy Director for Outreach and Communications Directorate, told delegates that particular repatriation continues to stay with him.

"Probably one of the things I am most proud of was my last opportunity to negotiate with the North Koreans when we couldn't get back in-country. I was able to negotiate with the North Koreans and bring back, you've probably heard, the 55 boxes of remains of Americans who died in North Korea.

"But it's more than just the 55 boxes. There's more than 100 American servicemembers represented in those boxes. Over 80 of them have been identified and returned to their families."

A retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel and Vietnam War veteran, Webb said returning those remains – and the other remains repatriated during his time at DPAA – to their families brings a sense of closure for those wondering for years about their missing loved ones.

"I'm proud I played a small part in providing answers to those thousands of family members who lost a loved one: The young man who went off to war and did not return home," he said. "The family not knowing what happened to that loved one.

"Through the work we've done in DPAA and its predecessor organizations have provided answers to those families to give them peace. To give them a place that they can go honor that loved one. To take their grandkids and tell them about the bravery of their grandfather, who gave his life for the freedom we share today."

Webb was presented the award for his dedication in locating, identifying, and accounting for thousands of American heroes who were missing or killed in action

since the Civil War. Webb also was cited for hosting numerous American Legion delegations led by national commanders at the DPAA laboratory in Hawaii.

“Even after a distinguished 26-year military career, our Patriot Award winner continued to keep faith with his Vietnam veterans by beginning a second career with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, where he would valiantly serve until his retirement in December 2022,” American Legion National Commander Vincent J. Troiola said. “His expertise on accounting for our missing heroes can be attested to not just by me, but by many of my predecessors and members of our National Security staff who have witnessed his passion and advocacy during the many briefings that he has given our organization over the years.”

Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Jim Coates (NY), Chairman

Third Wednesday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 935 4405 3884 | 786 114

(877) 853-5257



Lanny Hogaboom of Akima accepts the Employer of the Year award during Day 2 of The American Legion 104th National Convention at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, N.C., on Wednesday, August 30.

Jeric Wilhelmssen/The American Legion

Texas company and veteran win awards for hiring veterans

The American Legion | August 30, 2023

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission presented awards at The American Legion's 104th national convention, honoring employers

who hire veterans, disabled veterans, and older workers.

On Aug. 30, U.S. Army Sgt. Kelly Norris was presented the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP) of the Year Award and Akima Support Services was named the Large Employer of the Year Award winner.

Norris has worked for the Texas Veterans Commission since 2015. He is a 90% service-connected disabled veteran “who has a heart to serve and compassion for assisting veterans,” his nomination form read. Norris has placed 27 veterans, including 18 who are disabled, into full-time jobs.

Akima received the Employer of the Year Award in the large business category. A global enterprise with more than 7,500 employees, Akima delivers solutions to the Department of Defense and the federal civilian government. Akima provides services such as facilities maintenance and repair, information technology, logistics and supply chain, systems engineering, protective services, mission support, furniture, fixtures and equipment, construction, and more.

Akima's work force is comprised of 26% veterans and 30% of their active contracts are with the U.S. military.

The commission handed out [the other awards](#) during its meeting on Aug. 26.



Sons of the American Legion Squadron 105 receives three national awards

[Rusty Myers](#) | August 26, 2023

Charlotte, NC – Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 105 of Belleville, New Jersey received three awards this year at the 51st Sons of the American Legion National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. This year, as part of the New Jersey delegation to the convention, SAL 105 Adjutant Rusty Myers accepted the award on the squadron's behalf.

SAL 105 brought home national recognition by receiving first and second place in two different categories of the “Snapshots of Service” award, in the categories of Veteran’s Affairs and Americanism, respectively, and also won first place in the “Videos of Service” competition in the Membership and Recruitment category.

“Snapshots of Service” is a competition held by the national SAL organization wherein “Sons of The American Legion squadrons are encouraged to enter the annual Snapshots of Service photo contest to promote the Sons’ programs ... photos must represent one of the Four Pillars: Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, or Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.” The competition, accepting submissions from all 50 state-level detachments throughout the country plus from the Detachments of the District of Columbia, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and France, showcases some of the best pictures taken of Sons-in-action throughout the entire organization.

The first place in Veterans Affairs award given to Squadron 105 was for a photo of members on-site at the Fisher House in the Bronx presenting “the big check” with a \$3,000 donation made earlier in 2023. The second place in Americanism award was for a picture snapped of SAL 105 Vice Commanders Vinnie Ferriole and Ricky Vlasakakis at a flag retirement ceremony. These pictures were shown on the big monitors at the convention hall to the 1,000 attendees present, as well as a number of other submissions from Belleville.

The other award the squadron received was the “Videos of Service” award, which was in its inaugural year. The website explains that “Video submissions must contain an SAL member or members wearing SAL covers or SAL-branded clothing participating in an activity or event that falls under one of three categories: program support; community engagement; or membership and recruitment.”

This first place award was presented to Belleville for the FOX and Friends First segment they appeared on in late May, on the FOX News Channel. Myers, a Squadron 105 member who also works for FOX News, directed a segment where members from the state-level American Legion family organizations spoke about National Poppy Day. Over 20 members of the Post 105 Family appeared on the five-minute segment in the background, with members of the Passaic County American Legion Ritual Team reading the poem “In Flanders Field” following an interview with NJ Commanders Larry Bishop (2023-24) and Mark

Natale (SAL 2022-23), and Department Auxiliary President Colleen Brean-Lopez (2022-23).

“You guys deserve this ...you guys work so hard ... 105 is top notch,” remarked Natale, who accepted the awards with Squadron Adjutant Myers in Charlotte as representatives of New Jersey. This was the first time, perhaps ever, that someone from Belleville attended the National Convention as a delegate.

Before leaving the convention hall that day, Past Commander Natale and Adjutant Myers were honored to have the chance to take a picture with outgoing National Commander of the Sons of the American Legion Chris Carleton holding the awards.

The plaques will be presented to the squadron at their next general meeting, on 11 September, to be hung at the Post hall.



New Jersey Past Detachment Commander Mark Natale, National Commander Chris Carlton, Squadron 105 Adjutant Rusty Myers. submitted photo



Gravestone Preservation

A Gravestone Preservation Workshop will be held on Saturday, September 16 at Hollywood Cemetery in Harrington, Delaware. (Milford-Harrington Hwy, Harrington, Delaware, 19952) Rain or Shine.

All are welcome to see and participate in grave stone-monument cleaning, repairs, and preservation.

The workshop will be hosted by the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Delaware, Chris Reachard Detachment Commander, and the Harrington American Legion Post 7 Family.

The Workshop starts at 9:00 Am until 4:00 p.m. at Hollywood Cemetery in Harrington DE.

This FREE workshop is open to the American Legion Family and the Public.

This initiative is fully supported by the Senior Leadership of the American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion. The Workshop will be conducted by Gene Theroux, American Legion Squadron 124 In Massachusetts. Gene will travel to Delaware to demonstrate the proper care, cleaning, and restoration of cemetery monuments. Gene maintains several veteran cemeteries with the help of volunteers in Massachusetts and is an expert on monument restoration and cleaning. Gene has many years of monument care and training.

There are many veterans buried within the Hollywood Cemetery and attention will be placed on those monuments during this workshop.

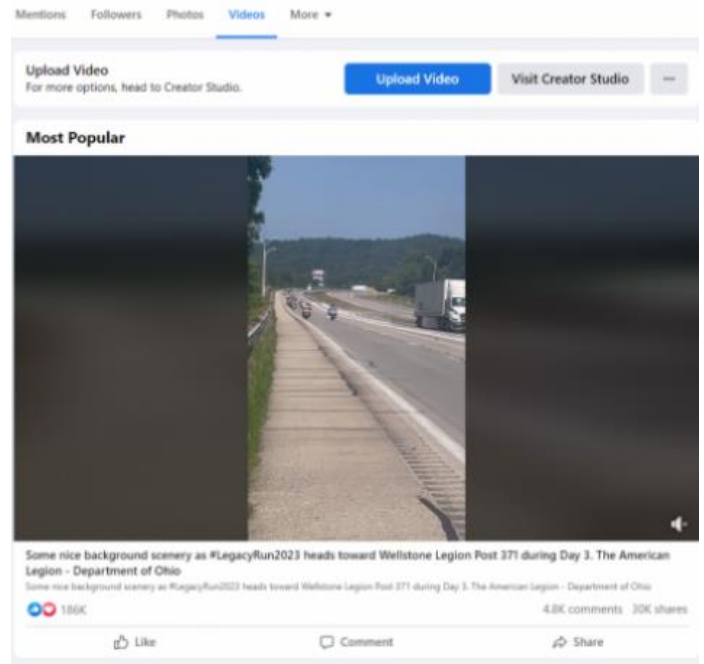
The work shop will include overall discussions on cemetery history and types of monuments, materials, techniques, and equipment utilized during the cleaning and preservation.

Instruction will be on proper cleaning procedures, tools, techniques, monument repairs, and re-setting. Refreshments will be available during the workshop; Lunch will be provided by American Legion Post 7 and a dinner will be available after the workshop at American Legion Post 7 in Harrington.

All those who will be attending please bring gloves and something to sit on.



submitted photos from 2022 workshop Odd Fellows Cemetery Seaford, DE



Record-setting Legacy Run produces record Facebook numbers in August

The American Legion | September 7, 2023

In August, The American Legion Legacy Run delivered a record \$1,551,631 for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, blowing past the previous best fundraising total by more than \$200,000.

The ride also produced another record: that for The American Legion's Facebook metrics.

In August, the Legion's Facebook reach hit 16.2 million – 10 million more than its previous best reach since we began tracking metrics. And a good portion of that came from coverage of the Legacy Run on the [American Legion Riders National Facebook page](#). Over the course of the ride, the Riders' Facebook page reached more than 13 million Facebook users. The numbers came on the strength of the performance of videos shot via an iPhone as the ride passed by those covering it for the Legion's Media & Communications Division.

The biggest performer was [a video shot as the ride rode through Ohio](#) on the way to Wellstone American Legion Post 371. That video alone reached more than 12.6 million Facebook users, resulted in 842,879 engagements, and was viewed more than 1.46 million times while being shared over 30,000 times.

Another video, shot in Indiana [as the ride passed through Roanoke](#), reached 1.46 million users and was viewed more than 626,000 times.

The [American Legion Baseball page](#) also put together one of its best months ever while providing coverage of the regionals and The American Legion World Series. The page reached more than 403,000 users. Including 114,000-plus from a story linking to the championship game story on [legion.org](#).

Thanks to all who helped us achieve this milestone by viewing and then sharing with others what we provided in August while covering The American Legion World Series, the Legacy Run, and the national convention.



Lisa Williamson, National President
The American Legion Auxiliary

Sports

Palou leaves no doubt in Portland

The American Legion | September 4, 2023

Chip Ganassi Racing's Alex Palou needed to only finish third or higher in Sunday's BITNILE.COM Grand Prix of Portland to clinch his second NTT INDYCAR SERIES championship in three years. But that wasn't enough for the 26-year-old driver.

"He likes to win," Ganassi said in a post-race interview. "I told him, 'Hey, let's wrap this up today.' He said, 'I'm going to wrap it up with a win.' He called his shot."

That Palou did, and again in dominant fashion, taking the lead on lap 22 and leading 69 of the final 88 laps, winning by 5.4353 seconds over runner-up Felix Rosenqvist. Driving the No. 10 American Legion Honda featuring the Be the One message, he wrapped up the series championship with one race remaining – the first driver to do so since 2007. CGR teammate Scott Dixon finished third and clinched second in the points race.



CoForce photo

"That's what we wanted," Palou said. "It was an amazing weekend overall. We had really fast cars. We knew we had to go for it, and we just raced how we've been doing all season. Super proud to be here in victory lane and super proud of the second championship."

"And it's extra special for The American Legion's Be the One. It's (Suicide Prevention Awareness Month), so hopefully that helps a lot of people now."

Palou's championship was Ganassi's third in the past four seasons and 15th overall. Palou became just the fifth driver in the history of the sport to win multiple championships at 26 or younger. In addition to his title, Palou and CGR also earned \$10,000 for his victory as part of the PeopleReady Force For Good Challenge; \$5,000 goes to The American Legion as Palou's chosen charity.

With one race to go, Palou has an average finish of 3.75 this season and has finished in the top 10 in every race. He is the first Chip Ganassi Racing driver to win five races in a season since 2009.

"I never thought that I would be an INDYCAR champion, and to be a two-time INDYCAR champion feels amazing, like a dream," Palou said. "Thank you to The American Legion and Parkland for all your support this year. It's been an amazing year, and we still have one to go."

Chip Ganassi Racing teammate Marcus Ericsson, who also featured American Legion branding on his No. 8 Huski Ice Spritz, moved up three spots from his starting position to finish the race seventh. Ericsson has 14 top-10 finishes in the season's 16 races.

"First of all, massive congratulations to all of Chip Ganassi Racing on the championship and then, of course, Alex on his win and his championship," Ericsson said via CGR media. "He's been the class of the field all year, and it's hard to get a more deserving champion than that. I'm really happy for him and the whole team.

"For me, it was a tough race. A lot of pushing and shoving and getting pushed off, pushing people off. But in the end, we fought all the way through and ended up at a P7 finish. I think we did well to get there after a tough race. We wanted more, but a good day for the team and I'm happy for everyone."

In the INDY NXT by Firestone GP of Portland, CGR developmental driver Kyffin Simpson started the race in the second row, but contact between two cars right behind him caused what would be a nine-car accident. Simpson would end up 13th in the race.

The NTT INDYCAR SERIES will wrap up the 2023 season with the Firestone Grand Prix of Monterey Sept. 8-10.



Palou to close championship season in chrome No. 10 American Legion Honda

The American Legion | September 7, 2023

Alex Palou already has wrapped up the 2023 NTT INDYCAR SERIES championship. But he's not ready to rest on his laurels.

Palou will drive the chrome version of the No. 10 American Legion Honda featuring the Be the One message this weekend during the Firestone Grand Prix of Monterey at WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca in California.

The Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR) driver clinched the series title, his second in three years, with another dominant win in the BITNILE.COM Grand Prix of Portland. It was Palou's fifth win of the season and the eighth this year for the team. CGR teammate Scott Dixon already has locked up the second spot in the points race, while fellow Ganassi driver Marcus Armstrong has a 26-point lead in the Rookie of the Year race. Should Armstrong hold onto his lead, CGR will be the first team in INDYCAR SERIES history to ever boast the series champion, the second-place finisher, and the Rookie of the Year in the same season.

Palou returns to the site of his extraordinary performance in 2022, when he blew past the field to win the road race by a track-record 30.3812 seconds.

"I'm very happy to have another race weekend to finish up this great season that we are having, especially at a place like Laguna Seca where we won last year," Palou said. "I think we have a good chance to finish up high again, and I can't wait to drive the chrome American Legion livery. It is going to look amazing out there."

Palou last weekend became the first INDYCAR driver to wrap up the series championship with one race remaining since 2007. "It was an amazing weekend in Portland, getting the win and getting the championship wrapped up early," he said.

CGR teammate Marcus Ericsson, whose No. 8 Huski Ice Spritz Honda features American Legion branding, enters the race sixth in the points race. He's second behind Palou in top-10 finishes this season with 14.

"For me, this will be my last race with Chip Ganassi Racing after four fantastic years," Ericsson said. "It is very, very important to me to finish strong and have a good race weekend. I'm very focused and looking forward finishing strong for all of us."

In the INDY NXT SERIES, CGR developmental driver Kyffin Simpson will close a strong season with a doubleheader this weekend at WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca, with Race 1 on Saturday and Race 2 on Sunday. Simpson qualified fourth for last weekend's INDY NXY by Firestone Grand Prix of Portland but was the victim of first lap contact behind him and finished 13th. He's currently 10th in the points race.

The WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca is a paved road racing track used for both auto racing and motorcycle racing. Originally constructed in 1957 near both Salinas and Monterey, the current racetrack is 2.238 miles in length with a 300-foot elevation change. It has eleven turns, including the famous "Corkscrew" at Turns 8 and 8A.

This weekend’s television schedule (all times ET):

- **Friday, Sept. 8** – NTT INDYCAR SERIES Practice 1, 5:30-6:45 p.m. (Peacock).
- **Saturday, Sept. 9** – NTT INDYCAR SERIES Practice 2, 1-2 p.m.; INDY NXT Race 1, 3:25-4:35 p.m.; NTT INDYCAR SERIES qualifications, 5-6:30 p.m. (all Peacock)
- **Sunday, Sept. 10** – NTT INDYCAR SERIES warmup, noon-12:30 p.m. (Peacock); INDY NXT Race 2, 12:50-2 p.m. (Peacock); Firestone Grand Prix of Monterey, 2:30-6 p.m. (NBC and Peacock).



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HELPFULNESS

by Jeff Vrabel, Sr.

ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF
MEMBERSHIP



Sons of The American Legion Membership Application

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____ Date _____

Name _____ Recruited by _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____

Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

E-mail Address _____ Telephone _____

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____

(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. _____, Dept. of _____

OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and transmit \$ _____ as annual membership dues.

Signed _____ (By Applicant or Parent)

Eligibility certified by _____ (Post Adjutant)

00-001 (2013)

RECEIPT

Date _____

Received of _____

\$ _____ in payment of dues for 20 _____ in

Squadron _____, Detachment of _____

By _____

Squadron Everlasting

to have a member's information listed here, please send to jeffrabels@gmail.com

Dale J. DeVlaminck



Dale J. DeVlaminck, age 62, of Butler, Indiana, passed away on Friday, September 1, 2023 at Parkview Regional Medical

Center in Fort Wayne following an extended illness. Mr. DeVlaminck had been a member of the Bryan Sons of the American Legion Squadron and enjoyed fishing.

Dale J. DeVlaminck was born on September 10, 1960, in Hicksville, Ohio, the son of Richard H. and Betty Jean (Strouse) DeVlaminck. He married Debra A. Thacker on September 27, 2005 in Reading, Michigan and she survives.

Dale is also survived by his sons, Josh DeVlaminck, of Edgerton and Jami DeVlaminck, of Fort Wayne; two grandsons, Eldon, and Micha; a special niece, Ava; sisters, Karen (Robert) Robison, of Pioneer, Ohio, and Tammy Gressett, of Butler; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Danny DeVlaminck, Donald DeVlaminck, and Tracy Moog; and one sister, Judy Geiger.

Honoring Dale's wishes, there will be no visitation or services held. Krill Funeral Service, 114 East Hull Street, Edgerton has been entrusted with his services.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](http://www.SympathyStore.com).

Obituary published on [Legacy.com](http://www.Legacy.com) by Krill Funeral Service - Edgerton on Sep. 3, 2023.

Bay "Rabbit" Robinson



HOISINGTON - Bay "Rabbit" Robinson went to be with our good Lord on August 31, 2023 at

Midland Home Health and Hospice, Topeka, Kansas.

He was born February 25, 1950 in Garden City, the son of Roscoe Lee and Niata Irene (Taylor) Robinson. Bay was of the Methodist Faith. He worked on oil rigs and at Clap Fur with Trapper, skinning animals. He belonged to Sons of the American Legion.

On September 19, 2005 he married Linda Lou Dellinger at Hoisington, she survives.

Other survivors include five children: Tiffany Finke, Nebraska, Amber Callaway, Colorado, Bay Robinson Jr., Nebraska, Colton Halstrom, Ellsworth, Dell, and wife Sierra Poyner, of the home; numerous grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

He went to join his mother, father, and sister and beloved friend Calvin "Trapper."

Cremation has taken place and services will be announced at a later date.

Memorials may be given to the Bay Robinson Memorial Fund in care of Beckwith Mortuary, PO Box 477, Larned, Kansas 67550. Personal condolences may be left at www.beckwithmortuary.com.

Trent Alan Miller



Trent Alan Miller, 65, of Morristown, passed away Saturday, September 2, 2023, at his home.

He was born January 14, 1958, in Shelbyville, the son of James I. "Jim" and Janet L. (Tracy) Miller. On December 20, 2003, he married Melissa D. Gambrel, and she survives.

In addition to Melissa, Trent is survived by his son, Brandon Miller and wife, Kristin, of Greenfield; daughters, Lacey Locker of Spiceland, Abigail Miller of Morristown, and Brittany Tompkins and husband, Josh, of Wilkinson; sister, Katherine Miller of Gwynneville; and grandchildren, Matthew, Katelyn, Darrell, Wyatt, Lindsay, Lauren, Ellie, Gentory and Duke.

Trent was preceded in death by his parents; granddaughter, Claire; and several aunts and uncles.

In 1976, Trent graduated from Morristown High School.

He was a member of the Gwynneville Christian Church.

Trent was a truck driver and last worked for Caldwell, Inc. He also enjoyed farming and was an avid Farmall Tractor fan.

He was also a member of the Sons of the American Legion and Pioneer Engineers Club of Indiana.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 pm, Friday, September 8, 2023, at Freeman Family Funeral Homes and Crematory, Frazier Chapel, 124 E. North St. in Morristown.

Funeral services will be at 10 am, Saturday, September 9, 2023, at the funeral home.

Interment will be at Asbury Cemetery in Morristown.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Morristown High School Softball Team, 223 S. Patterson St., Morristown, Indiana 46161.

Online condolences may be shared with Trent's family at www.freemanfamilyfuneralhomes.com.

Published by The Shelbyville News on Sep. 4, 2023.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](http://www.SympathyStore.com).

Michael J. Gallagher



Jaffrey, NH - Michael J. Gallagher, 61, of Jaffrey, NH, passed away on August 26, 2023, in the comfort of his home surrounded by family.

He was born on April 19, 1962, in Brighton, MA, a son of Thomas and Maryellen (Kennedy) Gallagher.

Michael grew up in Sudbury, MA and graduated from Lincoln Sudbury Regional high school. After high school he spent some time working in various culinary positions before taking a leave from the industry and working at Teleflex where he met his wife, Teri. Mike and Teri were married on September 2, 2002, in Rindge, NH. He then went on to work in many local cooking establishments, with his most recent position as the Culinary Director at Scott-Farrar in Peterborough, NH.

Mike was actively serving as Detachment Commander of the sons of the American Legion for the state of New Hampshire. He devoted countless hours volunteering his cooking skills for almost any function that needed his service. Anyone who knew Mike knew his generous heart and would say he would do anything he could if you needed help.

Michael will be forever remembered by his wife of 20 years, Teri Gallagher of Jaffrey, NH, his children; Christopher Gallagher and his companion Tricia of Wichita, KS, Dylan Gallagher and his wife Sara of Roxbury, NH and Shannon Gallagher of Virginia, his father, Thomas Gallagher and his wife Eleanor of Southern Pines, NC, his mother, Maryellen Gallagher of Yarmouth Port, MA, his siblings; Joseph Gallagher of Boxborough, MA, Daniel Gallagher and his wife Cathy of Tyngsborough, MA, Alexander Gallagher and his wife Correl of Jaffrey, NH, Matthew Gallagher and his wife Debra of Medfield, MA, and Elizabeth Gallagher of New York. His grandson, Jameson Gallagher as well as many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and friends.

Family and friends are invited to attend calling hours on Saturday, September 2, 2023, from 4:00PM 6:00PM at Cournoyer Funeral Home, 33 River Street Jaffrey, NH 03452. A Celebration of Life will be on Sunday, September 3, 2023, from 1:00PM -4:00 PM at the American Legion, 20 Webster Street, Jaffrey, NH.

Mike will be laid to rest at a later date in Greenlawn Cemetery in Baldwinville, MA.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial contribution in Mike's name to the American Legion Post 11 Elevator Fund, 20 Webster Street, Jaffrey, NH 03452.

To share a memory or to leave a condolence for Mike's family, please visit www.cournoyerfh.com.

Published by Monadnock Ledger-Transcript on Aug. 31, 2023.

Samuel David Ackley



Samuel D. Ackley, 84, of Frankfort, died at 1:32 p.m. on Monday, September 4, 2023 at his home. He was born in Frankfort, the son of the late Harold W. Ackley and Marie Ellen Willis. Sam was preceded

in death by his father and step-mother Nellie E. Ackley. He was raised by his grandparents, the late Howard and Eva Ackley.

Sam married the former Margaret Mae "Maggie" Bower on July 27, 1957. Sam and Maggie are the proud parents of four children: Rob (Cheryl) Ackley of Chillicothe, Sheryl Lynn Ackley of Galloway, Scott (Brandi) Ackley of Sedalia and Neil (Bryan) Ackley of Los Angeles, CA. They have been blessed with eight grandchildren; Kyle, Julianne, Cory, Taite, Michelle, Paige, Layton, Aryn, ten great grandchildren; Andrew, Sophia, Jocelyn, Paisley, Mya, Jace, Ava, Madison, Austin, Charlie and two to add in 2024.

Sam is also survived by one sister, Jenny (Tim) Howland and one brother, Tom (Kathy) Ackley all of Greenfield, three sisters-in-law; Frances Counts, June (Kelvin) Putnam of Frankfort, Linda (Jim) Johnson of Douglasville, GA, two brothers-in-law; Ben (Liann) Bower of Moscow, FL, and Charlie (Tami) Bower of Xenia. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews, friends and a special friend, Evie Snyder. He was preceded in death by one sister, Linda (Frank) Brown, one sister-in-law, Jo Anne (Bob) Schmauss and two brothers-in-law, Harry Lee (Patty) Bower and John Counts.

He was a 1957 graduate of Frankfort High School where he received the All Mid State League in Football. On August 8, 1957, Sam entered the United States Air Force where he was trained as a Sentry Dog handler. Following his discharge from the United States Air Force, Sam joined the work force at the Mead Paper Company where he retired in 2000. Following his retirement from Mead, Sam worked for several other companies. During this time, he also served as Mayor of Frankfort. Sam was a Dedicated Reds fan and an OSU Buckeye fan. As a Buckeye fan, he loved the time he spent at the "Shoe" as an usher, working alongside his two sons and his daughter-in-law.

Sam was a proud member of the Joseph Ellsworth White Post 483 - American Legion where he faithfully served on the Funeral Honor Guard and presented military honors to many friends and comrades. He was also a part of the Sons of the American Legion in Frankfort. He was a member of the Frankfort Lodge 309 - Free and Accepted Masons and many of the Masonic bodies. He was a founding member of the Frankfort Historical Society

and was a member of United Steel Workers Local 731.

To Sam, it was family first, honest work and love.

In keeping with Sam's wishes, cremation will take place. Family and friends may call on Friday, Sept. 8, 2023, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the EBRIGHT FUNERAL HOME, Frankfort. On Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023, at 10:30 am, family and friends are asked to attend the burial of the cremains in Greenlawn Cemetery, Frankfort. Military honors will be accorded by the Ross County Honor Guard and the US Air Force. Following the service, Sam will be laid to rest with his grandparents, Howard, and Eva Ackley. There will be a time of food, fellowship, and the sharing of memories after the service at the Frankfort Masonic Lodge. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Frankfort American Legion to further support the Legion that Sam loved. Those who wish to leave a personal memory of Sam and sign his online register may do so at www.ebrightfuneralhome.com.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.

Obituary published on www.legacy.com by Ebright Funeral Home - Frankfort on Sep. 6, 2023.

Ralph E. Tribble



Jacksonville - Ralph E. Tribble, 70, of Jacksonville, IL, died Saturday, Sept. 2, 2023, at his home.

He was born Sept. 6, 1952, in Jacksonville, the son of Gerald Frederick "Trib" and M. Louise (Harrell) Tribble.

He is survived by one son, Joshua E. Tribble of Browning; his caregiver, Angelia Thompson of Jacksonville; seven grandchildren, Alexandra Tribble (fiancé Tyler Burton), Mickey Marie Tribble, Nathaniel Tribble, Tristan Tribble, Joshua (Emily) Brown, Margaret (Robert) Arango, and Kaleb (Angelique) Brown; and three brothers and one sister, Gerald Tribble Jr. of Mendota, Ron (Cathy) Tribble of Murrayville, Judy Heyen (life partner Ned Huber) of Litchfield, and Mike Tribble of Jacksonville. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Ralph worked for 40 years at Bound to Stay Bound Books in Jacksonville. He was a member of the Jacksonville Moose Lodge and

the Sons of the American Legion. He enjoyed hunting, watching old westerns, and NASCAR.

A funeral service will be held 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023, at the Buchanan & Cody Funeral Home in Jacksonville, with burial at Jacksonville East Cemetery. The family will meet friends 1-2 p.m. prior to the service. The Buchanan & Cody Funeral Home in Jacksonville is in charge of arrangements.

Published by Jacksonville Journal-Courier on Sep. 5, 2023.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.

Doug Ebel



Douglas Ebel, the son of Harry and Margaret (Fiddelke) Ebel, was born on March 29, 1958, in Primghar, Iowa. He was baptized on

March 29, 1958, and later confirmed on May 7, 1972, at St. John Lutheran Church in Germantown. He graduated valedictorian from Paullina High School in 1976. On September 2, 1977, Doug was united in marriage to Debra Traver at Zion Lutheran Church in Paullina. Doug farmed for 40 years, from 1976-2016. While farming, he furthered his education at Northwest Iowa Community College and earned a bachelor's degree in history from Northwestern College. Doug then began working at Iowa State Bank in Paullina as a loan officer. He and Deb also managed Mill Creek Concessions for many years. Doug passed away on Wednesday, August 30, 2023, at their home, reaching the age of 65 years, 5 months, and 1 day.

Doug was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Paullina. He was also a member of the Paullina Lion's Club and Sons of the American Legion for several years. Doug's biggest joy was spending time with his family and especially playing with his grandchildren. Doug showed love for his family and community through acts of service. He enjoyed being outdoors, farming, raising livestock, gardening, planting trees, learning history, reading, writing and carpentry.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Deb of Paullina; children and their spouses, Danielle and Garret Reeder of Ankeny, Iowa, Reagan and Thor Klinker of Primghar, Morgan and Tyler Bruck of Audubon, Iowa, Colton and Emily Ebel of Hanley Falls, Minnesota, and

Terran and Andrew Weaver of Sutherland; grandchildren, Declan, Atticus, Bowen, Blake, Vince, Beckett, Pierce, Adeline, Bridger, Silas, and twin boys on the way. He is also survived by his mother, Margaret Ebel of Paullina; mother-in-law, Adeline Traver of Paullina; siblings, Lori (Greg) Sjaarda of Spirit Lake, Dan (Kim) Ebel of Paullina, Kathi (Leland) Schmidt of Richland Center, Wisconsin, Kari (Mark) Lange of Paullina; also, many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Doug was preceded in death by his father, Harry Ebel, father-in-law, Burdette Traver, brother, Lloyd (Lois) Ebel and sisters, Joni, and Judi Ebel.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.

Robert John Lajti



Robert John Lajti, 58, of Elmore, OH passed away surrounded by his loving family early Monday, September 4, 2023 at his

home. He was born on January 6, 1965 in Toledo, OH to Frank J. and Barbara L. (Gackstetter) Lajti. On July 31, 1993 in Elmore, he married Machell Geldien, and she survives.

Rob previously owned and operated the Limestone Tavern from 2008-2018, which was his passion and dream job. He continued to work there after he sold the business. Prior to that he worked as a truck driver and also at the Ottawa County Garage.

He was a member of The Sons of the American Legion and helped at their fish fries. Rob enjoyed cutting wood, traveling, and playing cards. Rob will be remembered as a family man, who loved spending time with his family, especially his granddaughter, Alli. He loved to entertain and being around family and friends. Rob loved drinking beer, being outdoors, 4-wheeling, and gardening. There was always someone stopping by the house to visit with him. He liked to barbecue and was considered a real grill master by his family and friends. He got his love of cooking from his mom.

In addition to his loving wife of 30 years, Machell, he is survived by his children, Travis (Brandi) Lajti and Kay "Kaci" Lajti; grandchildren, Alli Buhrow, Charlotte and Eowyn; siblings, JoAnne (Tom) Bowman, Don (Jan) Lajti, Dick Lajti, Raymond Lajti, Sandy (Ed) Albright, Joe (Jeanne) Lajti, Barb "Odie" Lajti, and Jeff (Christie) Lajti; and

many nieces & nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Frank and David Lajti; and nephew, Jake Lajti.

Family and friends are welcome to gather from 4-7 p.m. Monday, September 11, 2023 at the Robinson-Walker Funeral Home & Crematory, 165 E. Water St., Oak Harbor to celebrate Rob's life, which will conclude with a "Just One More" Farewell Toast of his favorite Budweiser beer. There will be a Celebration of Life for Rob on Saturday, September 23, 2023 starting at 4pm - ? at the family homestead.

Memorial contributions in memory of Rob may be given in care of the family either at the funeral home or through Rob's tribute page on the funeral home website or Hospice of Northwest Ohio may be considered as well.

Online condolences for the family or donations may be shared at www.walkerfuneralhomes.com.

Robert E. Temple



Princeton/Sterling – Robert E. Temple, 72, died on Monday, September 4, 2023, after a brief but valiant battle with cancer. He was born in Clinton to the late Raymond F. and Janet E. Temple and was a life-long resident of Sterling before moving to Princeton in 2011.

Bob worked for the Sterling DPW for 42 years with a 2-year break to serve his country in Vietnam when he was drafted into the Army.

He loved his job with the DPW with his favorite times being plowing snow for hours on end living on Slim Jims and bottles of Coke. He also loved producing blue ribbon hay for Oscar and Helen Larmache on their Sunnyside Farm on North Row Rd.

Bob was a member of the Sterling Fire Department for more than 30 years and enjoyed participating in the Wachusett Firemen's Muster for many years, always driving that beautiful truck!

He joined the Hiram O. Taylor American Legion Post 189 in 1972 shortly after returning home from Vietnam and received his 50-year continuous membership certificate in 2022. He also received the "Legionnaire of the Year" Award in 2022. He held various positions within Post 189 and served as Worcester County Commander of

District 4 of the American Legion in 1997-98 as his father Raymond (1953-54) and brother Don (1981-82) did before him. He was also a member of the Voiture Old 300 Forty and Eight and served many roles and many years in their organization.

His years in the Legion were very active ones, filled with Memorial Day and Veterans' Day parades, the Avenue of Flags, fundraising ham dinners, fundraising for many hours at Walmart (perhaps flashing his patriotic artificial legs to get a "little more" of a donation from someone), meat raffles, promoting the Legion at the Sterling Fair, and collecting from the community for Holidays for Veterans.

He was instrumental in forming a collaboration with Project Warm-up, a non-profit organization started by Isaiah French, a member of the Sons of the American Legion, to serve homeless Veterans in Boston, and expanding to all of Massachusetts and New England.

Bob could be found holding court at the Legion Hall any day of the week. His commitment to serving his fellow Veterans only became stronger after retiring from the DPW, even while dealing with his own health challenges. His most recent efforts involved "Clear Path for Veterans New England" in Devens, MA.

"The Fatman" always had a smile and a positive greeting for everyone, and his easygoing disposition endeared him to many. He will truly be missed by his family, his Legion Family, his Forty and Eight Family and many friends. Bob is survived by his wife Cindy (Carlson) Temple, daughter Samantha, son Elliott (Nicole) and granddaughter Haleigh, all of Princeton, brother Earl W. Temple (Debbie) and sisters Barbara DeStefano, Marjorie Johnson and Beverly Temple, sister-in-law Jeanette Temple and several nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his parents, his brothers Donald Temple and James Temple and brother-in-law Jeffrey Johnson.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Bob's family from 4 to 7 pm on Wednesday, September 13 in the Miles-Sterling Funeral and Tribute Center, 100 Worcester Road, Sterling. A Funeral service will be held at 11 am on Thursday, September 14 at the First Church in Sterling, 6 Meetinghouse Hill Road. Burial with military honors will follow at the Hillside Cemetery in Sterling.

Donations may be made to the Hiram O. Taylor Post 189 American Legion, PO Box 245 Sterling, MA 01564, or Project Warm-up, 32 Cortland Drive Stow, MA 01775. To share a memory or offer an online condolence, please visit www.milesfuneralhome.com.

Posted online on September 9, 2023. Published in Worcester Telegram & Gazette.

Michael J. Murphy Jr.



Michael J. Murphy, Jr. 65, of Chenango Forks, died Wednesday September 5, 2023 at his home. He was predeceased by his parents Michael and Barbara (Quick) Murphy. He is survived by the mother of his children, Tina Murphy, his children Jason Murphy, Joshua Murphy, and Amy Murphy; his grandchildren, Jayden and Paityn; his siblings, Suzanne and Joe Skapik, Robert Murphy and Kelly and Jeff Hopkins and by several nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews and by a special friend, Floyd Lord. He enjoyed racing, motor cycling and cars. He was employed by Taylor Garbage service for 35 years.

A celebration of life will be held at the American Legion Post 1194, 363 West Service Road, Binghamton, Sunday, September 10, 2023 beginning at 2 p.m.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](http://SympathyStore.com).

Howard L. Graham



Howard L. Graham, 82, of Butler, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023.

Born June 24, 1941, in Butler, he was the son of the late Howard T. Graham and Pearl M. (Delaney) Graham.

Howard graduated from Butler Area High School and was employed at Armco Butler Works for 30 years, mainly at Plant Two. Following his retirement, he enjoyed working part time in the pro shop at Conley's Resort, where he was active in fundraising events for Hunter's Hope Foundation for children with leukodystrophies.

Howard was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Butler, the BPO Elks Lodge 170, the Butler Masonic Lodge No. 272, the Sons of the American Legion Post 117 and the Bon Aire Car Club. He is survived by his wife of over 60

years, Gladys (Holmes) Graham; two daughters, Sherry (Steve) Collins, of Adams Township, and Michelle (Rick) Gladd, of Butler; five grandchildren, Ryan Collins, of Streetsboro, Ohio, Shawn (Natalie) Vincent, of Gibsonsia, Erika (Matt) Davis, of Valencia, Kristi Collins and her fiancé Brad Baughman, of Wexford, and Rick Gladd Jr. and his fiancé Jill Kelly, of Gibsonsia; four great-grandsons, Lucas Vincent, Jacob Vincent, Graham Davis and Brady Davis; and two sisters-in-law, Betty Cumberland, of Connoquenessing Township and Debra (Joseph) Simco, of Slippery Rock. He is also survived by two aunts, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Funeral services will be private in honor of his wishes. Burial will take place at Calvary Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Hunter's Hope, P.O. Box 643, Orchard Park, NY 14127, or to the donor's choice.

Arrangements are by GEIBEL FUNERAL HOME, 201 E. Cunningham St., Butler.

For more information or to leave an online condolence, please visit www.geibelfuneralhome.com.

Published by Butler Eagle on Sep. 8, 2023.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](http://SympathyStore.com).



RENEW

AMERICAN LEGION



Daniel J. Seehafer,
National Commander
The American Legion



Newly elected National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer of Wisconsin gives his acceptance speech during Day 3 of The American Legion 104th National Convention at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, N.C., on Thursday, August 31.

Hilary Ott/The American Legion

September 6, 2023

Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

When contemplating my first message as national commander of The American Legion, there was consistently one topic I wanted to address: our [Be the One initiative](#).

Nothing is more important than our effort to reduce the number of veterans who die by suicide.

Seventeen, 22 or even more a day. Even one is one too many.

As I said in [my acceptance speech last week](#), "... with all this talk about numbers on this very subject, the only number I want us to push is 'one,' as in Be the One to save one, yes, one veteran, or even their spouse, from taking his or her own life."

The life of one veteran saved makes all the difference in the world.

That gets to the heart of the Be the One mission. While the initiative was only launched two years ago, it is already starting to make a difference. I can feel the momentum. It's an honor to be part of this organization-wide effort.

You, too, can help build on this momentum to raise awareness about the issue, guide resources to those in need and eliminate the stigma sometimes associated with mental health counseling — all of which will contribute to reducing the veteran suicide rate.

Here are some ways that you and/or your post can play a vital role:

- Host a fitness-related event to raise awareness about Be the One, as well as improving one's physical and mental wellbeing. Posts across the nation have hosted 5K walk-runs and other similar events, [including this one](#) from my home state of Wisconsin.
- Put together a symposium or resource fair where local service providers can share their resources with veterans in your community. Posts in Illinois, Massachusetts and elsewhere have put on events like these to bring together veterans and those who can assist them with resources.
- Be creative and spread the word about Be the One in your communities, especially on Be the One days — the first day of every month. And share how you are driving Be the One awareness by posting the story on our [Legiontown web page](#).

Above all else, talk about it. Learn what to do when a fellow veteran needs help. And — above all else — Be the One.

A guide to green funeral options

Jim Miller/via Crescendo | September 5, 2023

[LEARN HOW YOUR PLANNED GIFT CAN HELP THE AMERICAN LEGION](#)

What can you tell me about green burial options? I would like to pre-plan my funeral and make it as natural and eco-friendly as possible.

Green funeral options are becoming increasingly popular in the United States as more and more people are looking for environmentally friendly alternatives to traditional funerals. Here is what you should know about "green burial" and "green cremation" options, along with some tips to help you locate services in your area.

Green Burial If you wish to be buried, you can minimize the environmental impact by forgoing the embalming chemicals (which are not typically required by law). You can opt to be buried in a biodegradable container or shroud without a vault, instead of a traditional casket or concrete vault. This approach allows the body to decompose more naturally. If you want to temporarily preserve the body for viewing or a memorial service without the use of traditional embalming chemicals, you can request the use of dry ice, a refrigeration unit, or a non-toxic embalming agent.



You will also be happy to know that green burials may be more affordable than traditional funerals, which average around \$8,000 in 2023. By forgoing the coffin, vault, and embalming, you may significantly cut down on funeral costs.

A good first step is to find a certified green funeral home in your area and contact them. If there is no certified home nearby, you should contact traditional funeral homes to see if they offer green service options. Many funeral homes offer a range of services, from traditional to green burials, to meet the needs of all their customers.

You will also need to find a green cemetery. There are nearly 100 green cemeteries throughout the United States, and more than 300 traditional (hybrid) cemeteries that offer green burials. Search online for environmentally friendly cemeteries. If you own rural property, you may be able to have a home burial if your state and county allow it.

Green Cremation Eco-friendly options exist for cremation as well. While cremation has always been promoted as being more eco-friendly than a typical burial, traditional cremation uses high heat to incinerate the body and emits greenhouse gases into the air.

A green cremation, however, uses water and potassium hydroxide to reduce a deceased body to its basic element within a few hours. This green technique, which is known as aquamation, may be more expensive than traditional cremation and can be an option in some states. Contact your local funeral providers to find out if this is available in your area, or do an online search for "aquamation" followed by your city and state.

Another green consideration is deciding what to do with the remains. Instead of scattering, which can be harmful to the environment, there are a wide variety of biodegradable urns that dissolve into the earth or

water over time. There are also memorial urns that will grow a plant or tree in combination with ashes.

"Savvy Living" is written by Jim Miller, a regular contributor to NBC's "Today Show." The column, and others like it, is available to read via The American Legion's Planned Giving program, a way of establishing your legacy of support for the organization while providing for your current financial needs. Learn more about the process, and the variety of charitable programs you can benefit, at legion.org/plannedgiving. Clicking on "Learn more" will bring up an "E-newsletter" button, where you can sign up for regular information from Planned Giving.

Nebraska police officer, Connecticut firefighter honored during national convention

The American Legion | August 30, 2023



2023 American Legion National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Crete, Neb., Police Department Patrol Officer Audrey Arbuckle speaks during the Day 2 of The American Legion 104th National Convention at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, N.C., on Wednesday, August 30.

Jeric Wilhelmsen/The American Legion

U.S. Navy veteran and Legionnaire John DeBisschop was presented the 2023 Firefighter of the Year Award on Aug. 30 during The American Legion National Convention in Charlotte, N.C. He's been a member of the Naugatuck Fire Department since 1998, earning multiple certifications, including Fire Officer III and Incident Safety Officer. He's also earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in Fire Science and a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Fire Science Administration.

DeBisschop also serves as the department's fire extinguisher technician responsible for the inspection, maintenance, and filling of the department's inventory of over 60 fire extinguishers of various types and sizes. He's also the coordinator of the department's

automated external defibrillator (AED) program, in which he not only maintains the department's 10 AEDs, but also an additional six AEDs located in various municipal buildings throughout town.

DeBisschop stays busy in the community as a member of Naugatuck Post 17, where he has served as a post and district commander and currently serves on the Department of Connecticut Scouting Committee. He is a 2006 graduate of the National American Legion College and now serves as a member of the National Internal Affairs Commission. His service to veterans is not limited to The American Legion. He also serves as the chairman of the Naugatuck Veterans Council and is a volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America.

After receiving his award, DeBisschop shared why the Legion's [Be the One](#) initiative means so much to him. "One of the most notable similarities between veterans and first responders is our mental health and suicide crisis," he said. "I worry about this now more than ever since one of my sons has followed in my footsteps, first into military service ... and now as a firefighter paramedic."

"I'm encouraged to know that there are agencies helping to destigmatize this issue. And the Be the One helps to keep our first responders and fellow veterans becoming statistics."

Audrey Arbuckle, a Senior Patrol Officer and Field Training Officer with the Crete, Neb., Police Department, was presented the Legion's National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. Arbuckle is responsible for guiding, directing, and evaluating the department's probationary officers for three months. She also serves as a Defensive Tactics/Use of Force Instructor, assisting in overseeing department-wide defensive tactics training which every officer uses in the field.

She's also undergone FBI training and has headed the department's Field Training program and also serves as a canine handler.

In June of 2022, she was awarded a Life-Saving Citation when she successfully applied a tourniquet to a teen whose major arm arteries and veins had been torn apart in an accident. Volunteer firefighters and paramedics arrived at the scene and were able to provide further emergency care before the teen was transporting to the emergency room. The next day, one of the paramedics, a veteran with combat medical experience, told city officials Arbuckle's quick thinking and immediate action likely saved the teen's life.

"I'm very humbled. I do believe that this award is a great representation of every single officer I work for, not only in Crete, but the state of Nebraska and across the United States."



Philip B. Onderdonk Jr. Religious Freedom Award recipient, Shields of Strength founder Kenny Vaughn, speaks during Day 2 of The American Legion 104th National Convention at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, N.C., on Wednesday, August 30.

Jeric Wilhelmsen/The American Legion

Shields of Strength receives religious freedom award

[Cameran Richardson](#) | August 30, 2023

Shields of Strength has provided over a million dog tags to military personnel. The faith-based and family-owned business in Texas creates dog tags that feature an American flag and In God We Trust on one side with a soldier's insignia, specific military unit and a quote from the Bible on the other. The most popular quote being Joshua 1:9: "I will be strong and courageous, I will not be terrified or discouraged, for the Lord my God is with me wherever I go."

First Liberty Institute presented Shields of Strength with the Philip B. Onderdonk Jr. Religious Liberty Award on stage at the 104th National Convention of The American Legion on Aug. 30, in Charlotte, N.C. The award is an engraved Henry repeating rifle that features a 24-karat gold bald eagle, Statue of Liberty and Liberty Bell, and laser etched with the award emblem. It is presented annually to honor a champion of religious freedom.

"My father was a soldier, and we love our nation, and we love our military," said Shields of Strength founder Kenny Vaughn. As an athlete, his wife used to write Bible scriptures on his equipment to help him "overcome fear in my life and my dreams." When war broke out in Iraq and Afghanistan, Vaughn went to a surplus

store, bought dog tags, and put scripture versus on them.

“They ended up in a gift shop in Sierra Vista, Arizona,” he said. “And some of the first troops deployed to Afghanistan took some of those dog tags with them. Then the requests went crazy.”

In his presentation of the award to Shields of Strength, Roger Byron, senior counsel with First Liberty Institute said, “One historian said with exception of the insignia on their uniforms, the emblem most often carried by American military personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan was a Shields of Strength dog tag. So there’s no overstating the positive impact that Shields of Strength has had on our military personnel.”

However, Shields of Strength’s support and encouragement to military personnel has been stopped. The Department of Defense now has a policy that limits what Shields of Strength can put on its dog tags and provide to military personnel. Then DoD offices received complaint letters from an antireligion extremist group complaining about Shields of Strength and “demanding the DoD to do something about it” because they use Bible quotes.

“Tragically, DoD gave in to their demands,” Byron said. “And at this point restrictions have been placed on Shields of Strength, effectively making it impossible for them to continue to produce these dog tags and get them to our military personnel.

“But it’s not the end of the story.”

The same way [First Liberty Institute has represented The American Legion for 20 years](#) in support of religious freedom, they too are representing Shields of Strength. And filed a lawsuit “on their behalf to turn this around,” Byron said. “Hopefully one day very soon Shields of Strength will once again be making these dog tags to encourage our military personnel and get them into their hands.”

Vaughn and his wife have three now grown children who “got to grow up giving and seeing the fruit of giving,” he said. “They got to grow up doing something so special. And then seeing the difference that it made and being told that it was so right.

“But what’s the worst part to me about what’s been going on is that they’ve been told what they did was so right, was somehow wrong. And then they’ve watched us be told to stop doing it.”

Vaughn’s three children were on convention stage watching their father accept the award.

“This is really special to us because they’re here today. What they are reminded of today is that what they did right really was. Thank you so much. Thank you for the gift and thank you all for your service.

“I’m going to leave you with this. The most valuable thing I ever learned in my life was that love was not a feeling, it was a choice. It was a decision to do what was truly best for someone else without regard for yourself. It’s what you do. And that love’s greatest enemy is fear. So, love always does what’s best for others without regard for itself, and fear will do what’s best for itself without regard for others. And so, I encourage you to keep living a loving life. You’re an example for our nation, and we love you.”

Vietnam pilot third from Chattanooga post to wear Medal of Honor

[Matt Grills](#) | September 5, 2023



President Joe Biden awards former Army Capt. Larry Taylor the Medal of Honor at the White House on Sept. 5. (Army livestream) Left: Taylor flew more than 2,000 combat missions in UH-1 and Cobra helicopters, and received more than 50 combat decorations, including the Silver Star.

Charles H. Coolidge Medal of Honor Heritage Center

The highly maneuverable, heavily armed AH-1 Cobra attack helicopter made its combat debut in Vietnam, boasting a lethal combination of miniguns, rockets and missiles.

With room for only two crew members, the Cobra wasn’t meant to extract troops, but Army 1st Lt. Larry Taylor pulled it off the night of June 18, 1968. Responding to a call for air support from a long-range patrol (LRP) team surrounded by North Vietnamese troops, the pilot and his wingman held off the enemy for more than a half hour before learning a rescue plan

with a UH-1 “Huey” had been canceled. Low on fuel and out of ammunition, Taylor decided he’d get the four men out on his gunship – something never attempted. Landing under heavy fire, he gave them just enough time to grab onto the Cobra’s rocket pods and skids, then flew them to safety.

On Tuesday, President Joe Biden awarded the Medal of Honor to Taylor in a ceremony at the White House, 55 years after the pilot jeopardized his own life to save his fellow soldiers from certain death. Taylor is the 33rd Tennessean to receive the nation’s highest military award for valor, and the third from American Legion Post 14 in Chattanooga.

“I just did what common sense told me to do, and it worked out,” said Taylor, 81, who left the Army in 1970 with the rank of captain.

On Sept. 11, Taylor will be honored with a Patriot Day and “Welcome Home” parade, organized by the Charles H. Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center, Hamilton County, the city of Chattanooga and the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council. The parade will include a flyover of Vietnam-era Cobra and modern-day Apache helicopters, and Taylor will lead as grand marshal with the Army’s 1st Infantry Division Mounted Color Guard and Band.

The Chattanooga American Legion post has been home to three Medal of Honor recipients: Army medic Desmond Doss, who rescued 75 wounded men at Okinawa; Charles Coolidge, who led a group of inexperienced and outnumbered soldiers in a standoff against German forces in 1944; and now, Taylor.

“We’re tickled to death,” said Carl Levi, a retired Tennessee Army National Guard brigadier general and former Post 14 commander. “I’m proud to have known them all and called them friend.”

Taylor’s Medal of Honor presentation concludes a six-year effort led by Dave Hill, 75, the LRRP team’s last living member, to upgrade the Silver Star award the pilot received for his actions. In 2017, Hill wrote to Sen. Bob Corker, requesting help. A long back-and-forth of correspondence with Army Human Resources Command followed, with Hill eventually succeeding in tracking down Taylor’s co-pilot, Chief Warrant Officer J.O. Ratliff, for a second witness statement. Once the Army Board for Correction of Military Records was satisfied it had “new, substantive, and relevant information” not known to Taylor’s command at the time of its award decision, its recommendation for an upgrade went to the Pentagon for approval.

“Nothing happened fast during this process, nor should it have,” said Hill, a member of the Nevada American Legion. “This is a high honor, and the Army’s very particular about who gets it.”

On July 7, Biden called to congratulate Taylor, who insisted – as he has, repeatedly – that he was just caught doing his job.

“I told him, ‘Now, Mr. President, I thought you had to do something specific and extraordinary to receive the Medal of Honor,’ and he said, ‘I’ve read your 201 file. Believe me, you qualify.’”

A graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Taylor was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Reserve in 1966. He completed the armor officers basic course at Fort Knox, Ky., before deciding he’d rather fly. Taylor trained as a helicopter pilot at Fort Wolters, Texas, and Fort Rucker, Ala., where he qualified as an aviator in 1967. He was assigned to one of the Army’s first Cobra companies in Vietnam.

Serving with D Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, Taylor flew over 2,000 combat missions in UH-1 and Cobra helicopters. He was engaged by enemy fire 340 times and forced down five times. According to the Army, Taylor was awarded more than 50 combat decorations, including 43 Air Medals, a Bronze Star and two Distinguished Flying Crosses.

As Cobra pilots, “we were on scramble status 24 hours a day,” he said. “You’d refuel, rearm, go find a shady spot and maybe sleep for 30 minutes. The horn would go off and there you’d go again. I never flew a mission in my underdrawers and flip-flops, but I was pretty close.”

Taylor needed just two minutes to be in the air and en route – including the night he flew to support Hill’s team near the hamlet of Ap Go Cong, northeast of Saigon.

While on a reconnaissance mission, the four soldiers – team leader Bob Elsner, assistant team leader Hill, grenadier Bill Cohn and radioman Gerald Patty of F Company, 52nd Infantry (LRP), 1st Infantry Division, call sign “Wildcat 2” – had inadvertently walked into a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) staging area. Using their night vision scope, they saw the closest enemy troops were just 50 meters away, and that they were surrounded. “It doesn’t look like we can get out of here,” Elsner said. “We’re going to have a fight.”

Moving to a corner of the rice paddy, the team radioed for gunship support and emergency helicopter

extraction. Soon, they saw the running lights of two Cobras a klick or two to the north, heading their way.

Taylor and his wingman, Capt. Roger Trickler, put a “steel curtain” around the team, making low-level attack runs and keeping them from being overrun. During the battle, the two gunships fired 152 rockets and nearly 16,000 machine-rounds at enemy positions.

“They just blew the hell out of everything around us,” Hill said. “Every time the enemy moved, they got rockets and minigun fire.”

Told by division senior officers that the team had been trained to “escape and evade,” Taylor did a quick recon and saw that their only viable E&E route was littered with ambush sites.

“If they’d have gone north, they’d have been captured,” he said. “If they’d have gone south, they’d have drowned in the river. They were carrying Prick-25 radios. How many people do you know who can swim with a 25-pound weight around their neck?”

So Taylor improvised. He directed Trickler to fire his remaining minigun rounds along the team’s western flank and return to base camp; he fired his own remaining rounds along their eastern flank and switched on his landing lights to draw the enemy’s attention. Finally able to break out of the encirclement, the four soldiers bolted to a new extraction point Taylor had designated.

The gunship was on the ground for just 10 seconds. Elsner and Patty hugged the starboard-side landing skid; Hill and Cohn jumped up on the rocket pods.

“We were riding backwards, like Aladdin on his magic carpet,” Hill says.

Taylor flew the men to a water treatment plant in friendly territory, where they clambered off to catch a glimpse of their savior – a helmeted head on the other side of a cockpit.

“We got in front of his ship, pulled off a salute, and he was gone,” Hill said.

Thirty years passed before Hill actually met Taylor, at a 1st Infantry Division Long Range Patrol-Ranger reunion in Branson, Mo. “It was great to finally see him and express our gratitude,” he said. “He’s been to at least half our reunions since 1999. He’s become part of us.”

Had Taylor not taken the action he did, he and his teammates would certainly be dead, Hill said. Down to their last magazines, they had only their Ka-Bar knives to defend themselves. In fact, they learned later that an additional NVA company had been headed to Ap Go Cong to bolster the unit attacking the LRP team.

Moreover, Taylor put himself in grave danger. His helicopter took 16 bullet strikes, and he expended all his ammo and nearly all his fuel to give the team time to find a way out. When that failed, he scrapped procedure and became their way out.

“He’s always had a kind of ‘aw shucks’ attitude about it, but what he did was above and beyond the call of duty, and certainly at the risk of his own life,” Hill said. It surprised Hill to find out that Taylor’s command hadn’t nominated him for the Medal of Honor. After the war, the story of the pilot’s unorthodox rescue spread, making its way into books, newspapers and even Army Ranger School curriculum. Support grew for upgrading Taylor’s Silver Star.

Popular demand, however, isn’t a factor in Medal of Honor recommendations. And rarely will a military board be convinced that the chain of command made an error.

That’s what retired four-star Army Gen. B.B. Bell said when asked to join the team trying to get Taylor the Medal of Honor.

“I’ve dealt with dozens of awards for heroism in my leadership role in the Army, and my first thought was, ‘I’ve heard this before,’” said Bell, who serves as chairman of the National Medal of Honor Heritage Center’s advisory board and is a member of Chattanooga Post 14. “The zeal to ensure proper recognition of every veteran who served and performed a valorous act can sometimes lead to a desire to elevate awards to perhaps a higher level than the evidence would suggest. So I kind of pushed back on these guys for a while. Then I got a call from Dave Hill. No longer was it a secondhand story.”

Knowing the Army needed information that was not available to Taylor’s chain of command in 1968, Bell began looking at the larger picture: the chaos and intense combat of the Tet Offensive, the stationing of Taylor’s and Hill’s units, and – crucially – the death of the Big Red One’s commander in a helicopter crash three months after Taylor’s actions. As division commander, he would have been the one to recommend Taylor for the Medal of Honor.

What clinched it was the realization that Hill and his teammates were never interviewed about their rescue. “The Army never questioned the truth of the stories, but it assumed all along those stories were documented,” Bell said. “They weren’t. It was a matter ultimately of not ferreting out so much new information but writing it down properly, certifying it was true and correct, and showing how it could not possibly have been available to the chain of command.”

Hill calls Bell “the spark plug we needed,” but Bell gives full credit to Hill for refusing to give up until the man who saved his life – and the lives of his teammates – was properly recognized.

Chris Dooley, a retired Air Force colonel and commander of Chattanooga Post 14, has long supported the push to award Taylor the Medal of Honor. He met him 10 years ago, through the Military Officers Association of America, and describes Taylor as someone “who makes sure everybody has a chance to contribute and is taken care of as a member of his group. He’s very generous that way.

“It’s a great honor for Post 14 to now have three Medal of Honor recipients, but I think Larry is also a reflection of the Chattanooga community and the patriotic spirit we have here in this area.”

Having met Taylor many times, Bell said he’s “a normal guy from East Tennessee who went off and served his country and got caught up in something that’s important to warriors,” which is brotherhood.

“He couldn’t go back to base camp knowing he hadn’t done everything he could to try to save those men. It’s either go in and die with them by landing or fly away and turn your back on them. The answer was easy for Larry. He put his life on the line, went in, and saved their lives. God knows how he got away with it.”

Why war is not inevitable for China, Taiwan

[Henry Howard](#) | September 6, 2023

While concerns abound over the escalating stare down in the Taiwan Strait, a policy expert on China-Taiwan issues offered a reassuring perspective before The American Legion National Security Commission during its meeting on Aug. 26.

“The attention and concern that’s been devoted to the Taiwan Strait over many decades, but with increasing intensity and vigor in the last few years, I think is really justified but also maybe not quite as extreme as some

folks might believe,” said Dr. Shelley Rigger, a Davidson College professor of East Asian Studies.

Some predictions have estimated war could break out as early as 2029.



Dr. Shelley Rigger, a Davidson College professor of Eastern Asian Studies, speaks during the National Security Commission panel discussion at the 104th National Convention at Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, N.C., on Thursday, August 31.

Hilary Ott /The American Legion

Rigger acknowledges that such forecasts are made with careful thought, research, and analysis. Still, she says, it’s a situation in flux.

“I don’t think any of them is actually fully reliable for the simple reason that we just don’t know,” she said. “And global politics, as we learn almost every month, is unpredictable, and governments change their outlook, they change their decisions, they changed their policies, their leadership. I don’t think we can ever say with certainty that any particular event is going to happen on any particular timeframe. One of the predictions was 2021 and that one didn’t happen.”

The alarm bells have sounded repeatedly due to various threatening actions. China has expanded its military might significantly. The United States has expressed unrelenting support for Taiwan’s independence. The U.S. and China have traded military shows of force such as training exercises, ship movements and more, potentially waiting for the other side to blink.

Rigger offered an insider’s perspective to the mindset of those who have most at stake — the 23 million residents of Taiwan.

“The people in Taiwan have pretty much decided it’s not worth it,” she observed. “We’ll wait you out. So we live separately. We don’t need the divorce, but we are definitely not getting back together.”

On the other hand, she points out, Beijing desperately wants to reunite.

“China would like to reconcile with Taiwan and to bring Taiwan back into the Chinese household,” she said. “For many decades, that was not a high priority for the Chinese government, the Chinese leadership, much less the Chinese society. But since the end of the Mao era, Chinese leaders have mobilized their population with nationalism, and basically made the argument that we should be allowed to run this country with an iron fist.”

Rigger outlined several factors to support her view:

- **China’s internal messaging.** The more Beijing stirs up nationalism and makes its case to reunite with Taiwan, the more it becomes a point of pride domestically. That adds pressure to Chinese leaders like Xi Jinping. “So they have to unload these threats, because otherwise their own people will begin to wonder how serious they are about taking care of the destiny of the Chinese nation.”
- **China’s stance as a world leader.** China ascends the bully pulpit to demonstrate its position as a world leader. “However, at the same time, I think the Chinese leadership is actually really terrified of what could happen in the Taiwan Strait. Even the best-case scenario, a quick military victory, would be absolutely devastating to China’s global reputation. It would saddle the Chinese government with a territory and a population, 23 million people who would never give up their desire for freedom.”
- **The U.S. support of Taiwan.** Rigger says that China is afraid of being dragged into a conflict, not just with Taiwan, but with the United States. “They absolutely cannot plan for a conflict that the U.S. does not join Taiwan in fighting.” She believes that China fears Taiwan finally deciding, “We’ve waited long enough, we’re serving the papers, we’re over this marriage. We just want to be finished with Beijing.” That would force China’s hand to either “show their weakness to their own people and to the world or take an action that is likely to be fatal to the Chinese Congress Party leadership.”

While the situation is fluid, Rigger believes the United States should continue to support Taiwan but not make things worse with China.

“Sales of military weapons that are of actual benefit and use to the Taiwanese armed forces is a really good

idea and something very important for the U.S. to continue to do,” she said. “Sometimes it’s controversial in the U.S., sometimes it’s controversial in Taiwan. Taiwan is a free society where people think many different things about all of this stuff. But arm sales are a material and substantive way the U.S. can help Taiwan.”

And we need to remember, she emphasized, that the United States cares about Taiwan because it is an example of the values that America has been promoting around the world for over 200 years.

“Taiwan is an ethnically Chinese society from the history before 1900. It was part of the Japanese Empire, it was under a military dictatorship, and yet today it is a free society that any one of us would be happy to live in. It proves that no culture is too hostile to democracy for the democratic values to survive there. And it proves that no people are too disempowered by history to make a functioning democracy in their own country. So that’s really important. We’re telling countries all over the world, democracy can happen. You can do it too.”

How exercise affects mental health

Jennifer Campbell | September 5, 2023



The American Legion’s Be the One initiative is a year-round effort to reduce the rate of veteran suicide. With September being Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, this is an ideal time to remind our loved ones and ourselves about the importance of using physical activity to stay mentally healthy.

Exercise has many mental health benefits, including a reduced risk of depression and anxiety, improved brain and cognitive function, better quality of sleep and overall quality of life. Many veterans have found fitness activities a way to better cope with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries and other service-connected conditions.

It’s not just veterans, servicemembers or first responders suffering from traumatic events, however. There is a mental health epidemic in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that in the decade preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, feelings of persistent sadness and hopelessness, as well as suicidal thoughts and behaviors, increased by approximately 40% among young people. Research also shows that comorbid physical and mental health problems continue into adulthood.

A recent study in the Journal of Adolescent Health found that teens with physical and mental health disorders are more likely to have very low quality of life as adults. Mental illness may also have a direct or indirect effect on physical health. For instance, mental disorders, such as depression, may directly lead to physical illness by weakening or altering the immune response. There is also evidence suggesting that stress can lead to decreased immune function.

The CDC recommends 150 minutes per week of moderately intense physical activity. That may sound daunting, but if you break it up into five days of 30 minutes of activity, it's quite manageable.

Don't think of physical fitness as hard-core running or intense weightlifting. Choose 30 minutes of activity that meets your current fitness level. That might be brisk walking, light jogging, swimming, biking, using an elliptical, yoga or similar exercises.

Join a community as a way to stay motivated and have fun. Try a recreational sport like pickleball, volleyball, tennis, golf, or bowling. Making exercise a social activity can be very beneficial for mental health outcomes, and doing it outside is a real mood booster.

Engage family members, perhaps even a younger person who may be showing signs of depression or anxiety. A walk, bike ride or canoe trip are all great ways to reconnect via a shared experience while also getting in some physical fitness.

Keep showing up. It may be challenging at first. But once you rebuild a base level of fitness, you will begin to enjoy your chosen activity more, improve physically and boost your mental wellness.

Army veteran Jennifer Campbell is a certified personal trainer with a master's degree in nutrition education. She is past commander of the California American Legion's 24th District and Hollywood Post 43.

August Impact: A record-breaking Legacy Run

The American Legion | September 7, 2023

Records were broken, champions were made, and organizations that help children facing challenges were major beneficiaries in August, thanks to The American Legion.

First, the records:

- American Legion Riders delivered an all-time high of \$1,551,631 to the stage of the 104th National Convention for the Legacy Scholarship Fund.
- The Sons of The American Legion celebrated an all-time high in membership on Aug. 10.
- The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's 2023 grant distributions were higher than ever before.
- And more mobile-device users downloaded the national convention app than any time in history – by nearly 5,000.

The American Legion Baseball World Series showcased two stellar pitching performances, and Legion appeals representatives won their cases for more than 300 veterans, free of charge, after disputed VA claims decisions.

[Click here to see the August 2023 American Legion Membership Impact Report, as well as those from previous months.](#)



OCW provides gaming PC to U.S. Army veteran who beat non-Hodgkins lymphoma

The American Legion | September 7, 2023

During the 2023 American Legion National Convention, U.S. Army veteran and cancer survivor Steven Stewart was presented a gaming PC valued at over \$4,000 through the Legion's [Operation Comfort Warriors](#) (OCW) program. But the member of the American Legion Department of Georgia said as great as the PC has been, his experience in Charlotte, N.C., was an equally amazing experience.

Stewart was connected with OCW coordinator Douglas Chace, a Membership Engagement Coordinator at American Legion National Headquarters, through Stewart's membership in the online veterans gaming community REGIMENT. The Legion is [the official](#)

[veteran service organization of REGIMENT](#) and has collaborated on numerous events, including back-to-back REGIMENT gaming stations at the 2022 and 2023 national conventions.

REGIMENT founder Chris Earl hooked up Stewart with Chace, leading to the OCW grant for the gaming PC. Stewart and his wife, Spring, were guests of OCW in Charlotte during the national convention.

“That was, honestly, my first-ever time going to any type of convention like that at all,” Stewart said. “It was really ... awesome. I don’t really have any other words to describe it. The networking I was able to do. I was able to meet and talk to a lot of awesome people and connect with a lot of people. And getting to spend a lot of time with Doug was phenomenal. We still keep in contact and text about every other day.”

It's been a whirlwind year and a half for Stewart, who served in the U.S. Army from 2006-2013 and then was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in April of 2022. Homebound during his treatment and a long-time gamer, he connected with REGIMENT in September 2022.

“There were times when I didn’t think I was going to make it,” said Stewart, who found out in February of this year he was in full remission. “One of my good friends who I served with convinced me to try to stream on (interactive livestreaming platform) Twitch because I was stuck at home. He’s the one who actually got me connected with REGIMENT, and from there I’ve met so many awesome people and connected with so many people over this last year. It’s just been insane.”

Stewart said he was in need of a new gaming PC when he was connected with OCW. He admits he was at first a bit pessimistic about being awarded the grant. “You’re going to have a little bit of skepticism with it, because applying for it doesn’t necessarily mean you’re going to get it,” he said. “I’m still in shock. I’m not going to lie. When they told me I was going to be receiving it, absolutely floored doesn’t begin to describe it.”

The experience at the national convention has Stewart looking to become more active in The American Legion. And he’d like to see fellow veterans his age do the same. “I do see the need for it from my generation of vets,” he said. “Seeing them more involved with it would be phenomenal.”



KCNA photo

US, Japan, South Korea to ‘accelerate’ missile-warning timeline and plan more drills

David Choi/Stars and Stripes | September 8, 2023

Defense chiefs from the United States, South Korea and Japan agreed Thursday to “accelerate” the sharing of real-time, missile-warning data and to plan additional joint military drills.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, South Korean Defense Minister Lee Jong-sup and Japanese Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada called Thursday for increased military cooperation amid ongoing threats from North Korea, which “is highly likely to continue provoking in the future,” according to a summary of their talks from Seoul’s military.

North Korea has fired 19 ballistic missiles so far this year in 13 separate days of testing. The communist regime last fired two short-range ballistic missiles that flew roughly 220 miles before splashing into the Sea of Japan, or East Sea, on Aug. 30.

The defense chiefs agreed that North Korea’s failed Aug. 24 launch of a military reconnaissance satellite, which fell into the Yellow Sea, was “an illicit act to flagrantly breach” U.N. Security Council resolutions prohibiting the country from testing rockets using ballistic missile technology, the readout said.

The chiefs planned to address the regime’s actions by “further strengthening the three countries’ reaction capabilities and posture against North Korea’s nuclear and missile threats” and to conduct trilateral military drills “as soon as possible,” the readout added.

The three nations’ armed forces trained together Aug. 29, five days after North Korea’s failed satellite launch. Three warships equipped with the Aegis Combat System — the USS Benfold, South Korea’s Yulgok Yi I and

Japan's JS Haguro — tracked a simulated North Korean ballistic missile in international waters south of Jeju Island, a South Korean territory, to improve the navies' ability to react, Seoul's National Defense Ministry said at the time.

Austin, Lee, and Hamada agreed to accelerate a process for sharing information about North Korean missile launches as they happen.

During their first summit at the Camp David presidential retreat last month, President Joe Biden, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida agreed to "operationalize our sharing of missile warning data on [North Korea] in real-time" by the end of 2023, according to a joint statement on Aug. 18.

The allies' plan for more trilateral drills follows reports that North Korea, Russia, and China may carry out similar exercises.

South Korean National Intelligence Service director Kim Kyou-hyun told lawmakers at a closed-door briefing that Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu floated the idea to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in July, a Seoul lawmaker who attended the meeting told reporters Monday.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.



California post collects donations for Maui wildfire relief

The American Legion | September 6, 2023

In the aftermath of the deadly wildfires in Maui in early August, members of the American Legion Family at Post 716 in Los Alamitos, Calif., set out to help.

"As it stands now, we are sitting on quite a bit of donated items," said Post 716 Commander James Eubanks. "This is primarily due to the American Red

Cross asking shippers to hold on any further shipments."

Supply donations had been put on hold as the infrastructure necessary to process and receive donations had to be restored.

The post's callout for supplies brought in donations from across the community and from other Legion posts in California, Eubanks said. It started with a member of Squadron 716, Tom Petrillo, contacting the commander of Post 8 in Maui to see what help was needed, Eubanks said.

From there, Squadron Commander Steve Working asked Eubanks to put out the call for donations via the post's [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

"Once the word went out, the donations began to flood in," Eubanks said — so much so that donations filled the post building and spilled over into their social quarters.

Working was able to get some of the items transported to Maui and the post obtained a container to store the other items until shipping resumes.

"The shipping firms and other nonprofits have been great about reaching out and keeping me posted on the status and have promised that we are on the top of their list," said Eubanks, who also expressed his gratitude for those who donated to the relief efforts.



BUDDY CHECK



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!



THE WHITE HOUSE

September 8, 2023

A Proclamation on Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, 2023

Today we remember all the heroes who were forged in the hours, days, and years that followed that terrible morning of September 11, 2001 — ordinary Americans who, amidst the terror, smoke, and flames, demonstrated extraordinary courage and selflessness. Together, their bravery helped prove to our Nation and the world that what those terrorists most hoped to wound could never be broken: the character of our Nation.

In the crucible that was September 11th, we saw just how deep that character goes. We saw it in the civilians, service members, and first responders who leapt into action that day, running into the searing flames and crumbling buildings — risking and losing their own lives to save others. We saw it in the incredible courage and resolve of the passengers on board Flight 93, who refused to let their plane be used as a weapon against more innocent Americans. We saw it in the police officers and firefighters who returned to the twisted steel and broken concrete slabs of Ground Zero and the Pentagon for months — breathing in toxins and ash that would damage their own health but nonetheless refusing to stop searching through the destruction. And we saw it in the millions of Americans across our country who responded to the September 11th attacks by signing up to defend our Constitution and join the greatest fighting force in the history of the world.

In the years since September 11th, hundreds of thousands of American troops have served — and sacrificed — around the world to deny terrorists safe haven and protect the American people. The First Lady and I hold in our hearts all those whose loved ones gave their last full measure of devotion in this fight. We owe them — and all our veterans and Gold Star Families as well as their survivors, caregivers, and loved ones — a debt of gratitude. While we can never fully repay that debt, we will never fail to meet our sacred obligation: to prepare and equip all those we send into harm's way and care for them and their families when they return.

In honor of all the lives we lost 22 years ago — and in honor of all the heroes who have given their whole souls to the cause of this Nation every moment since — may today not only be observed with solemn remembrance but also with renewal and resolve. And I invite all Americans to observe this day with service; you can find opportunities to volunteer in your community by visiting ameri-corps.gov/911-day. Together, may we continue to demonstrate that the rights and freedoms that those terrorists sought to destroy on September 11, 2001, remain unwavering — strengthened by generations of Americans who have dared all and risked all to defend, protect, and preserve our democracy.

By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107-89), the Congress has designated September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day," and by Public Law 111-13, approved April 21, 2009, the Congress has requested the observance of September 11 as an annually recognized "National Day of Service and Remembrance."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 11, 2023, as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance. I call upon all departments, agencies, and

instrumentalities of the United States to display the flag of the United States at half-staff on Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. I invite the Governors of the United States and its Territories and interested organizations and individuals to join in this observance. I call upon the people of the United States to participate in community service in honor of those our Nation lost, to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities, including remembrance services, and to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. eastern daylight time to honor the innocent victims who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-three, and of the

Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-eighth.



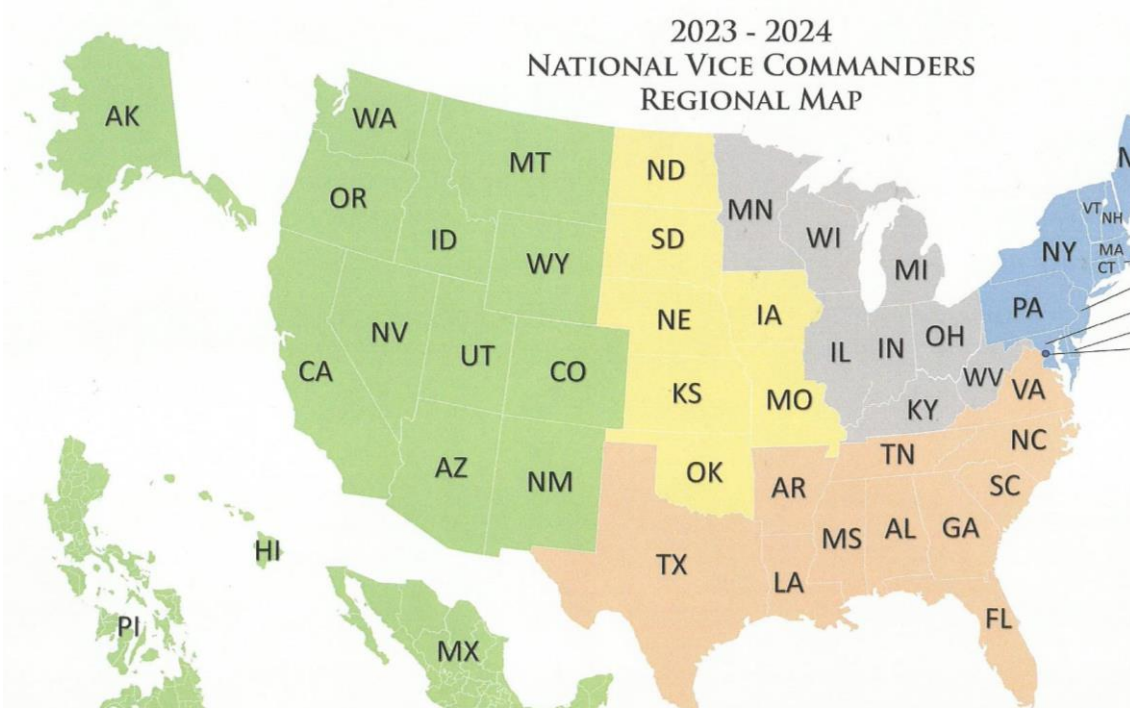
JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.,
President of the United States

[Sign up for American Legion flag text alerts](#)



NATIONAL
POW ★ MIA
RECOGNITION DAY
September 15, 2023

2023 - 2024
NATIONAL VICE COMMANDERS
REGIONAL MAP



SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

REGION	NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER
Western	James Fischer (CA)
Midwest	Terry Harris (KS)
Central	Robert Bristo (MN)
Northeast	John Cook (NH)
Southeast	Linwood Moore (VA)

DONALD L. "JR" HALL, JR. (MD) - NATIONAL COMMANDER
ANTHONY W. WRIGHT (PA) - NATIONAL ADJUTANT

2024 SAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT AS OF: SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

#	DETACHMENT	2024 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 10% TARGET 9/13/2023	2024 ACTUAL MBRSHP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2024 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	120	-60	72	60.00%	55.46
2	FRANCE	168	-61	78	46.43%	40.61
3	LOUISIANA	1,821	-650	832	45.69%	42.34
4	GEORGIA	4,887	-1,394	1,883	38.53%	34.87
5	WISCONSIN	4,398	-984	1,424	32.38%	29.77
6	NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	-593	870	31.41%	26.52
7	IDAHO	659	-140	206	31.26%	26.12
8	ALABAMA	2,100	-430	640	30.48%	27.04
9	ILLINOIS	13,716	-2,656	4,028	29.37%	28.77
10	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	-239	400	24.83%	22.01
11	MISSISSIPPI	736	-100	174	23.64%	22.16
12	MONTANA	1,091	-145	254	23.28%	21.83
13	UTAH	460	-60	106	23.04%	22.39
14	NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	-136	243	22.60%	19.39
15	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	-194	351	22.36%	95.08
16	FLORIDA	23,066	-2,836	5,143	22.30%	17.93
17	WYOMING	1,248	-123	248	19.87%	17.53
18	MISSOURI	3,337	-323	657	19.69%	17.72
19	TEXAS	5,783	-535	1,113	19.25%	17.38
20	OREGON	1,534	-140	293	19.10%	100.00
21	NEVADA	387	-34	73	18.86%	15.52
22	TENNESSEE	1,792	-154	333	18.58%	15.56
23	ARKANSAS	406	-34	75	18.47%	14.25
24	IOWA	4,914	-392	883	17.97%	16.83
25	PUERTO RICO	156	-12	28	17.95%	16.99
26	KANSAS	6,055	-457	1,062	17.54%	16.07
27	MARYLAND	16,803	-1,262	2,942	17.51%	15.25
28	VIRGINIA	4,367	-321	758	17.36%	14.01
29	RHODE ISLAND	348	-23	58	16.67%	13.99
30	CALIFORNIA	11,292	-733	1,862	16.49%	14.09
31	INDIANA	37,244	-2,202	5,926	15.91%	14.39
32	NEW JERSEY	9,662	-485	1,451	15.02%	13.61
33	OKLAHOMA	1,430	-71	214	14.97%	13.38
34	MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	-238	781	14.38%	12.49
35	VERMONT	3,920	-144	536	13.67%	12.66
36	COLORADO	2,952	-94	389	13.18%	12.19
37	ARIZONA	8,595	-271	1,130	13.15%	10.50
38	CONNECTICUT	1,865	-47	233	12.49%	10.25
39	DELAWARE	2,596	-58	318	12.25%	8.33
40	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	-125	728	12.08%	11.13
41	NEBRASKA	6,992	-145	844	12.07%	11.43
42	OHIO	31,690	-585	3,754	11.85%	10.48
43	KENTUCKY	2,399	-36	276	11.50%	9.58
44	NEW YORK	30,663	-249	3,315	10.81%	9.68
45	MICHIGAN	26,236	96	2,528	9.64%	7.61
46	MINNESOTA	11,435	123	1,021	8.93%	8.34
47	ALASKA	1,740	27	147	8.45%	6.71
48	NEW MEXICO	1,582	43	115	7.27%	5.74
49	WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	74	185	7.13%	5.31
50	PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	2,068	4,207	6.70%	5.63
51	WASHINGTON	2,682	89	179	6.67%	3.71
52	MEXICO	33	1	2	6.06%	6.25
53	PHILIPPINES	79	5	3	3.80%	2.53
54	DIST OF COL	91	7	2	2.20%	1.14
55	MAINE	2,757	232	44	1.60%	0.96
Grand Totals:		382,111	-17,206	55,417	14.50%	12.71

2024 SAL REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

WESTERN REGION - JAMES A. FISCHER, SR. (CA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	120	72	60.00%
IDAHO	659	206	31.26%
MONTANA	1,091	254	23.28%
UTAH	460	106	23.04%
WYOMING	1,248	248	19.87%
OREGON	1,534	293	19.10%
NEVADA	387	73	18.86%
CALIFORNIA	11,292	1,862	16.49%
COLORADO	2,952	389	13.18%
ARIZONA	8,595	1,130	13.15%
ALASKA	1,740	147	8.45%
NEW MEXICO	1,582	115	7.27%
WASHINGTON	2,682	179	6.67%
MEXICO	33	2	6.06%
PHILIPPINES	79	3	3.80%
Totals:	34,454	5,079	14.74%

SOUTHEAST REGION - LINWOOD A. MOORE (VA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
LOUISIANA	1,821	832	45.69%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	870	31.41%
ALABAMA	2,100	640	30.48%
MISSISSIPPI	736	174	23.64%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	351	22.36%
FLORIDA	23,066	5,143	22.30%
TEXAS	5,783	1,113	19.25%
TENNESSEE	1,792	333	18.58%
ARKANSAS	406	75	18.47%
PUERTO RICO	156	28	17.95%
VIRGINIA	4,367	758	17.36%
Totals:	44,567	10,317	23.15%

MIDWEST REGION - TERRY A. HARRIS (KS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	400	24.83%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	243	22.60%
MISSOURI	3,337	657	19.69%
IOWA	4,914	883	17.97%
KANSAS	6,055	1,062	17.54%
OKLAHOMA	1,430	214	14.97%
NEBRASKA	6,992	844	12.07%
Totals:	25,414	4,303	16.93%

NORTHEAST REGION - JOHN R. COOK (NH)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	168	78	46.43%
MARYLAND	16,803	2,942	17.51%
RHODE ISLAND	348	58	16.67%
NEW JERSEY	9,662	1,451	15.02%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	781	14.38%
VERMONT	3,920	536	13.67%
CONNECTICUT	1,865	233	12.49%
DELAWARE	2,596	318	12.25%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	728	12.08%
NEW YORK	30,663	3,315	10.81%
PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	4,207	6.70%
DIST OF COL	91	2	2.20%
MAINE	2,757	44	1.60%
Totals:	143,078	14,693	10.27%

CENTRAL REGION - ROBERT L. BRISTO (MN)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
GEORGIA	4,887	1,883	38.53%
WISCONSIN	4,398	1,424	32.38%
ILLINOIS	13,716	4,028	29.37%
INDIANA	37,244	5,926	15.91%
OHIO	31,690	3,754	11.85%
KENTUCKY	2,399	276	11.50%
MICHIGAN	26,236	2,528	9.64%
MINNESOTA	11,435	1,021	8.93%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	185	7.13%
Totals:	134,598	21,025	15.62%

09/07/23	NATIONAL Donald "JR" Hall (MD) National Commander						
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Quota Date	105% Date
1 Western	34,454	5,079	(29,375)	14.74%	#REF!		
2 Southeast	44,567	10,317	(34,250)	23.15%	#REF!		
3 Central	134,598	21,025	(113,573)	15.62%	#REF!		
4 Northeast	143,078	14,693	(128,385)	10.27%	#REF!		
5 Midwest	25,414	4,303	(21,111)	16.93%	#REF!		
TOTALS	382,111	55,417	(326,694)	14.50%	#REF!		

09/07/23	CENTRAL REGION Robert L. Bristo (MN) National Vice-Commander								
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1 Wisconsin	4,398	1,424	(2,974)	32.38%	#REF!	5	29.77%		
2 Illinois	13,716	4,028	(9,688)	29.37%	#REF!	9	28.77%		
3 Indiana	37,244	5,926	(31,318)	15.91%	#REF!	31	14.39%		
4 Ohio	31,690	3,754	(27,936)	11.85%	#REF!	42	10.48%		
5 Kentucky	2,399	276	(2,123)	11.50%	#REF!	43	9.58%		
6 Michigan	26,236	2,528	(23,708)	9.64%	#REF!	45	7.61%		
7 Minnesota	11,435	1,021	(10,414)	8.93%	#REF!	46	8.34%		
8 West Virginia	2,593	185	(2,408)	7.13%	#REF!	49	5.31%		
TOTALS	129,711	3,734	(125,977)	2.88%	#REF!				

09/07/23	WESTERN REGION James A. Fischer Sr. (CA) National Vice-Commander								
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1 Hawaii	120	72	(48)	60.00%	#REF!	1	55.46%		
2 Idaho	659	206	(453)	31.26%	#REF!	7	26.12%		
3 Montana	1,091	254	(837)	23.28%	#REF!	12	21.83%		
4 Utah	460	106	(354)	23.04%	#REF!	13	22.39%		
5 Wyoming	1,248	248	(1,000)	19.87%	#REF!	17	17.53%		
6 Oregon	1,534	293	(1,241)	19.10%	#REF!	20	100.00%		
7 Nevada	387	73	(314)	18.86%	#REF!	21	15.52%		
8 California	11,292	1,862	(9,430)	16.49%	#REF!	30	14.09%		
9 Colorado	2,952	389	(2,563)	13.18%	#REF!	36	12.19%		
10 Arizona	8,595	1,130	(7,465)	13.15%	#REF!	37	10.50%		
11 Alaska	1,740	147	(1,593)	8.45%	#REF!	47	6.71%		
12 New Mexico	1,582	115	(1,467)	7.27%	#REF!	48	5.74%		
13 Washington	2,682	179	(2,503)	6.67%	#REF!	51	3.71%		
14 Mexico	33	2	(31)	6.06%	#REF!	52	6.25%		
15 Phillippines	79	3	(76)	3.80%	#REF!	53	2.53%		
TOTALS	34,454	5,079	(29,375)	14.74%	#REF!				

09/07/23	SOUTHEAST REGION Linwood A. Moore (VA) National Vice-Commander								
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1 Louisiana	1,821	832	(989)	45.69%	#REF!	3	42.34%		
2 Georgia	4,887	1,883	(3,004)	38.53%	#REF!	4	34.87%		
3 North Carolina	2,770	870	(1,900)	31.41%	#REF!	6	26.52%		
4 Alabama	2,100	640	(1,460)	30.48%	#REF!	8	27.04%		
5 Mississippi	736	174	(562)	23.64%	#REF!	11	22.16%		
6 South Carolina	1,570	351	(1,219)	22.36%	#REF!	15	95.08%		
7 Florida	23,066	5,143	(17,923)	22.30%	#REF!	16	17.93%		
8 Texas	5,783	1,113	(4,670)	19.25%	#REF!	19	17.38%		
9 Tennessee	1,792	333	(1,459)	18.58%	#REF!	22	15.56%		
10 Arkansas	406	75	(331)	18.47%	#REF!	14.25	23.00%		
12 Puerto Rico	156	28	(128)	17.95%	#REF!	25	16.99%		
13 Virginia	4,367	758	(3,609)	17.36%	#REF!	28	14.01%		
TOTALS	4,523	786	(3,737)	17.38%	#REF!				

09/07/23	MIDWEST REGION Terry A. Harris (KS) National Vice-Commander								
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1 South Dakota	1,611	400	(1,211)	24.83%	#REF!	10	22.01%		
2 North Dakota	1,075	243	(832)	22.60%	#REF!	14	19.39%		
3 Missouri	3,337	657	(2,680)	19.69%	#REF!	18	17.72%		
4 Iowa	4,914	883	(4,031)	17.97%	#REF!	24	16.83%		
5 Kansas	6,055	1,062	(4,993)	17.54%	#REF!	26	16.07%		
6 Oklahoma	1,430	214	(1,216)	14.97%	#REF!	33	13.38%		
7 Nebraska	6,992	844	(6,148)	12.07%	#REF!	41	11.43%		
TOTALS	25,414	4,303	(21,111)	16.93%	#REF!				

09/07/23	NORTHEAST REGION John R. Cook (NH) National Vice-Commander								
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1 France	168	78	(90)	46.43%	#REF!	2	40.61%		
2 Maryland	16,803	2,942	(13,861)	17.51%	#REF!	27	15.25%		
3 Rhode Island	348	58	(290)	16.67%	#REF!	29	13.99%		
4 New Jersey	9,662	1,451	(8,211)	15.02%	#REF!	32	13.61%		
5 Massachusetts	5,432	781	(4,651)	14.38%	#REF!	34	12.49%		
6 Vermont	3,920	536	(3,384)	13.67%	#REF!	35	12.66%		
7 Connecticut	1,865	233	(1,632)	12.49%	#REF!	38	10.25%		
8 Delaware	2,596	318	(2,278)	12.25%	#REF!	39	8.33%		
9 New Hampshire	6,027	728	(5,299)	12.08%	#REF!	40	11.13%		
10 New York	30,663	3,315	(27,348)	10.81%	#REF!	44	9.68%		
11 Pennsylvania	62,746	4,207	(58,539)	6.70%	#REF!	50	5.63%		
12 Dist. of Columbia	91	2	(89)	2.20%	#REF!	54	1.14%		
13 Maine	2,757	44	(2,713)	1.60%	#REF!	55	0.96%		
TOTALS	143,078	14,693	(128,385)	10.27%	#REF!				

09/07/23	2023 SUPER SIX STANDINGS								
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1 Florida	23,066	2,836	(20,230)	12.30%	#REF!	16	17.93%		
2 Indiana	37,244	5,926	(31,318)	15.91%	#REF!	31	14.39%		
3 Ohio	31,690	3,754	(27,936)	11.85%	#REF!	42	10.48%		
4 New York	30,663	3,315	(27,348)	10.81%	#REF!	44	9.68%		
5 Michigan	26,236	2,528	(23,708)	9.64%	#REF!	45	7.61%		
6 Pennsylvania	62,746	4,207	(58,539)	6.70%	#REF!	50	5.63%		
TOTALS	211,645	6,735	(204,910)	3.18%	#REF!				

National Totals	382,111	55,417	(326,694)	14.50%	#REF!	12.71%			
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2024 National Membership Target Dates			
1 September 13, 2023	10%	6 ♥ February 14, 2024 ♥	75%
2 October 18, 2023	25%	7 March 13, 2024	80%
3 November 15, 2023	35%	8 April 10, 2024	90%
4 December 13, 2023	45%	9 May 15, 2024	100%
5 January 18, 2024	60%	10 July 24, (DSTG)	105%



2023 - 2024 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023	10%
OCTOBER 18, 2023	25%
NOVEMBER 15, 2023	35%
DECEMBER 13, 2023	45%
JANUARY 18, 2024	60%
FEBRUARY 14, 2024	75%
MARCH 13, 2024	80%
APRIL 10, 2024	90%
MAY 15, 2024	100%
** JULY 24, 2024	105%

**** DELEGATE STRENGTH TARGET DATE**

Target dates fall on the second Wednesday of the month unless there is a holiday on that day or at the beginning of that week.

Since Columbus Day falls on a Monday, the October target date will be on a Thursday.

The January target date will be on the third Thursday of the month because of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



2023 - 2024 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION RENEWAL SCHEDULE

CUT-OFF DATE

RENEWAL POSTCARD MAIL DATE

1ST NOTICE:

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

OCTOBER 23 - 27, 2023

2ND NOTICE:

FEBRUARY 23, 2024

MARCH 25 - 29, 2024

3RD NOTICE:

APRIL 22, 2024

MAY 27 - 31, 2024

Transmittals not received by the cut-off date may not prevent a subsequent renewal notice from being delivered at or around the renewal date.

Note: Renewals transmitted and received by the cut-off date(s) noted above will be updated/processed prior to printing renewal notices, assuming they can be successfully scanned once received. Membership that must be hand-keyed (i.e., new members, renewals and/or membership cards that can't be scanned) will take longer to process. Please transmit membership as early and as often as possible in advance of the Target Dates to help avoid delays in processing.



2023 - 2024

THE AMERICAN LEGION

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

EARLY BIRD/NEF KICKOFF	SEPTEMBER 13, 2023	50%
FALL MEETINGS	OCTOBER 18, 2023	55%
VETERANS DAY	NOVEMBER 15, 2023	65%
PEARL HARBOR DAY	DECEMBER 13, 2023	75%
MID-WINTER	JANUARY 18, 2024	80%
PRESIDENT'S DAY	FEBRUARY 14, 2024	85%
LEGION BIRTHDAY	MARCH 13, 2024	90%
CHILDREN & YOUTH	APRIL 10, 2024	95%
ARMED FORCES DAY	MAY 15, 2024	100%
** DELEGATE STRENGTH	30 DAYS PRIOR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION	

Target dates fall on the second Wednesday of the month unless there is a holiday on that day or at the beginning of that week. Some target dates were moved to the third week to maximize end of year renewal notices.

Since Columbus Day falls on a Monday, the October target date will be on a Thursday.

To maximize the December renewal notice, the January target date will be on the third Thursday of the month because of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



2023 - 2024

THE AMERICAN LEGION

RENEWAL SCHEDULE

CUTOFF DATES

MAY 15, 2023

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

OCTOBER 18, 2023

DECEMBER 13, 2023

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

APRIL 10, 2024

RENEWAL MAIL DATES

JULY 1-8, 2023

OCTOBER 7-14, 2023

NOVEMBER 10-18, 2023

JANUARY 6-12, 2024

MARCH 2-8, 2024

May 4-10, 2024

Transmittals not received by the cutoff date may prevent a subsequent renewal notice from being delivered at or around the renewal date.

Please note, renewals transmitted and received by the cutoff (which is also a National Target Date) will be updated prior to printing renewal notices, assuming they can be successfully scanned. Membership that must be hand-keyed (new members and renewals that can't be scanned) will take longer to process.

Please transmit as early and as often as possible in advance of the Target Dates to help avoid delays in processing.

2023 FALL MEETINGS AGENDA FLYER
OCTOBER 6 - 8, 2023

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE AND OTHER MEETING TIMES & LOCATIONS

MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (MT&D)	MICHIGAN ROOM, 21st FL	8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
100th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE	PANORAMA B, 21st FL	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE (CWF)	OHIO ROOM, 21st FL	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMITTEE (C&Y)	CIRCLE EAST, LOWER LEVEL	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION	CIRCLE CENTER, LOWER LEVEL	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
PUBLIC MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (PMCC)	ILLINOIS ROOM, 21st FL	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMISSION (VA&R)	MERIDIAN EAST, LOWER LEVEL	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
SUB-COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS (SONA)	PANORAMA A, 21st FL	4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
CENTURY COMMITTEE (CENTCOM)	CIRCLE CENTER, LOWER LEVEL	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
CONVENTION COMMITTEE	OHIO ROOM, 21st FL	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE	CIRCLE EAST, LOWER LEVEL	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
PAID-UP FOR LIFE AD-HOC COMMITTEE (PUFL)	ILLINOIS ROOM, 21st FL	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION (VE&E)	MERIDIAN EAST, LOWER LEVEL	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS	LIBRARY ROOM, 21st FL	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE AND OTHER MEETING TIMES & LOCATIONS

AMERICANISM COMMISSION	CIRCLE EAST, LL	8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
FINANCE COMMISSION	PANORAMA B, 21st FL	8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION	MERIDIAN EAST, LL	8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
SUB-COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS	OHIO ROOM, 21st FL	8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
NATL OFFICER/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN FORUM	CIRCLE CENTER / WEST, LL	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (MT&D)	MICHIGAN ROOM, 21st FL	8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
NATL VICE COMMANDER SELECTION COMMITTEE (NVCSC)	ILLINOIS ROOM, 21st FL	8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
SUB-COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS (SONA)	PANORAMA A, 21st FL	8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

OPENING SESSION - NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MERIDIAN WEST / CENTER, LOWER LEVEL 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER
POSTING OF COLORS
INVOCATION
POW/MIA EMPTY CHAIR CEREMONY
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
BLUE STAR BANNER CEREMONY
READING OF THE CALL
ROLL CALL
READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
GREETINGS BY KEVIN MOOK (MD), NATIONAL SAL LIAISON

COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS

AMERICANISM COMMISSION - CHRIS CASEY (NE)

- CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE - JOE LOHMAN (MD)
- CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE - MARK NAVE (PA)

CENTURY COMMITTEE (CENTCOM) - JEFF VRABEL, SR (OH)

FINANCE COMMISSION - BILL HILL (MD)

PUBLIC MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION - KEVIN CHAPLIN (VA)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECESS

As of: 9/07/23 ** MEETING TIMES / LOCATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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2023 FALL MEETINGS AGENDA FLYER
OCTOBER 6 - 8, 2023

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ORIENTATION AND TRAINING

MERIDIAN WEST / CENTER, LOWER LEVEL

5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

REIMBURSEMENT / EXPENSE CHECK DISTRIBUTION

LOWER LEVEL LOBBY / FOYER

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023

RELIGIOUS SERVICE

MERIDIAN WEST / CENTER, LOWER LEVEL

7:45 AM - 8:30 AM

GENERAL SESSION - NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MERIDIAN WEST / CENTER, LOWER LEVEL

8:45 AM - 11:30 AM

RECONVENE

CALL TO ORDER

SALUTE COLORS

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

ROLL CALL

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS:

- THE AMERICAN LEGION, NATIONAL COMMANDER, DANIEL J. SEEHAFFER (WI)
- AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, NATIONAL PRESIDENT, LISA WILLIAMSON (AK)
- THE AMERICAN LEGION, CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT, ROBERT MORRILL (NY)

COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONT'D)

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION - BILL CLANCY, III (NY)

- CONVENTION COMMITTEE - CHRIS BYRD (NC)
- MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - MIKE COTTEN (DE)
- MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - DARYL VERSTREATE, JR. (NY)

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION - BLAIR MILES (AL)

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION - BRUNO WILLIAMSON (IL)

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION COMMISSION - JIM COATES (NY)

SUB-COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS - NED FOX (CA)

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

BENEDICTION

RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS

ADJOURNMENT